

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2011

CEDAR BREAKS #404

Prepared By: _____
District Range Staff

Date: _____

Approved By: _____
District Ranger

Date: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

Pat Morrison, Kendall Brown and Allen Graves met with you on November 24, 2010 to discuss management of the Cedar Breaks Allotment during the 2010 grazing year and to plan grazing management during the upcoming 2011 grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions implement the 2002 Decision and are the result of those discussions.

If you wish to request changes in these instructions, particularly to the rotation schedule, you must make the request no less than 5 business days prior to the proposed effective date for the change. All changes to the Annual Operating Instructions must be approved, in writing, by the District Ranger prior to implementation.

The authorized stocking for the 2011 grazing season on the Cedar Breaks Allotment is as follows:

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
108 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
10 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Cedar Breaks Allotment Annual Authorization for 2011

Number and Class of Livestock Authorized	Dates Authorized
108 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01/2009 – 02/28/2010
2 Horses-Saddle	03/01/2009 – 02/28/2010

Cedar Breaks Allotment Rotation Schedule for 2011

Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
Cow/Calf	11/24/10 – 2/28/11	*West CCC, East CCC, River
Cow/Calf	03/01/11 – 03/31/11	West CCC
Cow/Calf	04/01/11 – 05/15/11	East CCC
Cow/Calf	05/16/11 – 07/15/11	South Cedar Breaks/Alma Flat/Mineral Creek
Cow/Calf	07/16/11 – 09/01/11	North Cedar Breaks
Cow/Calf	09/02/11 – 11/30/11	East CCC and River
Cow/Calf	12/01/11 – 02/28/12	West CCC
Horses/Bulls	03/01/11 – 02/28/12	Community
Horses/Cattle	Holding/Doctoring 03/01/11 – 02/28/12	Highway 180
Cow/Calf	In conjunction with private land in pasture	Wiley Morgan

Note: No cattle or horses are allowed in the San Francisco River.

*Due to lack of tank water, cattle are authorized to be in all three pastures. Key areas will be monitored more frequently to insure herbaceous forage is kept within stubble height requirements.

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. The District Ranger must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest if the placing on or removal of livestock is not planned in the above schedule, and more than 10 head are being moved. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

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 your allotment.

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District is planning to allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire burn on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to complete Permit Modifications, you must provide the District with an accounting of materials used and the days and dollars spent on your part to complete the permit modification. This information provides evidence of your contribution to range developments.

In order to verify actual use and as part of monitoring specified in your Term Permit, it is important to document livestock numbers, dates of entering and leaving pastures and the allotment, shipping dates, and cattle losses (both grown stock and calves). Copies of shipping tickets, sales records, and other written records are required to support your documentation.

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples of this are cleaning out stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.

4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only

if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal prior to or at the time the livestock are taken off the allotment. You will be required to provide your Social Security or tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.

A \$25 administrative fee will be charged for any additional bills for collection that are sent to you due to either late payment or for split billing on seasonal allotments. This fee will be collected to pay for the cost associated with issuing an additional bill for collection. There is no administrative fee for the normal "split billing" on yearlong allotments.

To insure that payment is credited to your account, you must write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox.

5. Short Age Calf Policy: Any short-aged calves (calves less than 6 months old on December 31) must be removed from the National Forest by April 1, or you will need to apply for and pay grazing fees for these animals from April 1 to the time they are removed from the National Forest. Calves that are 6 months old or older on December 31 need to be paid for starting January 1.

6. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of energy supplements on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
- b. Feeding of hay on National Forest land will be permitted as an attractant for your cattle. I approve this use of hay as long as you limit hay locations to those where salting is permitted and to Community Pasture for horses only. You may use either certified weed free hay or hay grown on your private land in Alma. Allowable use guidelines will still apply to all pastures.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, or molasses lick tubs on National Forest land will be permitted if carried out in conjunction with salting.
- d. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use. To facilitate gathering, you may place salts in corrals **only** during the week before scheduled pasture move dates.
- e. No salting within the following areas of special management concern:
 - Alma Flat Pasture
 - The southeast corner of Community Pasture (the south half of the west half of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Township 10 South, Range 20 West)
 - Keller Canyon within West CCC Pasture
 - The easy country along the fence in the northeast side of West CCC pasture (West $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, Township 10 South, Range 21 West)

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Cedar Breaks Allotment has been analyzed through the 2002 NEPA analysis process. The resulting Decision Notice meets Forest Plan standards and guidelines. This decision along with the terms of your Ten-Year Term Permit and these Annual Operating Instructions provide direction for management on this allotment.

The terms and conditions of Part Three of your Term Grazing Permit as modified by a letter of

instruction dated May 22, 2006, constitute your allotment management plan. We will work with you to develop an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) this coming year. The following range developments remain to be completed to implement the 2002 Decision.

- West CCC pipeline reconstruction. Thank you for providing your cost accounting. You stated that the well on private land in East CCC pasture did not produce enough water to charge the line this year.
- West CCC pipeline extension to the north part of the pasture. I agreed to take another look at this development and decide whether construction is necessary. I will meet with you for a field review of your proposed location of a dirt stock tank in lieu of the pipeline.
- Alma Flat Pasture fence reconstruction. I have indefinitely extended the due date for completion of this development. .
- Alma Flat corral reconstruction. I have indefinitely extended the date for completion.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Other items discussed during the annual validation meeting are presented below.

- You had a Permit Modification for the Wiley Morgan brush removal and road modification. You have completed the work. Please supply an accounting of your costs for this project similar to that provided for the West CCC pipeline so that I may close the permit modification.
- I am continuing to work on the EA for the San Francisco River re-channeling project.
- I will set a date with you to look at roads 4054S and 4054U and the user created two track road created between those two roads and other roads on the west side of the Allotment.
- We disagree on what exactly constitutes Forest Service participation in reconstruction of the river fence along your private land boundary. I will continue to provide all necessary material for reconstruction of this fence when it washes out each year. I will also provide labor to help with the reconstruction, when personnel can be made available. If you would agree to relocate the fence on dry ground to the south of the active channel, it would not be necessary to reconstruct the fence several times a year.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

There is no water in the dirt stock tanks in either West or East CCC pastures. The well on private land in East CCC pasture did not produce sufficient water (lowered from 15 ft water level to 70 ft water level)to charge the pipeline to the storage tank. The only water in West CCC pasture is in Kellar Canyon, the stream is running near the east boundary. If we receive more moisture Kellar Canyon and the well, which is probably dependent on subsurface water in the creek should recharge. Stout Mesa tank is the only tank on North Cedar Breaks that has water. There was pretty good grass forage growth due to the early rains but lack of water is creating problems with distributing use.

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. The forecast for the upcoming spring is wetter than usual. However, since stock water was short in 2010, unless the precipitation provides sufficient runoff to fill tanks, water availability may continue to be a problem in 2011.

There are three areas of special management concern. These are listed below and marked on the enclosed map. Do not place salt or supplements within these areas

- Alma Flat Pasture in South Cedar Breaks. Shut off water at the well once grazing intensity levels have been achieved to encourage stock to move to other areas of the pasture.

- Southeast corner of the Community Pasture. As long as water is available in Section 20 tank or the Ditch Tank, do not provide water in this area.
- Keller Canyon in West CCC pasture. Since Keller Canyon has the only currently reliable water in the West CCC pasture, it is imperative that we closely monitor use to avoid exceeding allowable use in the canyon.

VIII. PERMIT MODIFICATIONS

Permit modifications requested this grazing year:

- Re-align fence between East CCC and Wylie Morgan pasture to provide opportunity to provide water in both pastures. Pipe water from well on private land to trough in waterlot. Will require water use agreement. I will look into the feasibility of this arrangement. All dirt tanks were dry in late summer in East CCC and the only reliable water was at Holliman Well.
- Provide us a list of your costs for the installation of the solar pump and other materials.

Range developments specified in the environmental analysis, as modified by the letter of instruction May 22, 2006, are high priority developments. Other range developments will be considered when the high priority developments have been completed and inspected.

IX. STUBBLE HEIGHT MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

You were provided with copies of three monitoring reports completed on Cedar Breaks in 2010.

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved. This monitoring will be used to develop the grazing strategy for next year's Annual Operating Instructions. Monitoring will follow the protocol specified in the 2002 Decision.

Monitoring will consist of minimum stubble height measurements in key areas, or photo of the key area when key species growth is clearly greater than the minimum stubble height. Stubble heights are to be at least 1.2+ inches on "sod bound" Blue grama and 2.5+ inches on the "bunchgrass" Blue grama sites. Monitoring will be conducted shortly after cattle have been moved from the pasture. Other monitoring may be needed for any requested changes in the rotation schedule.

Stubble height measurements (monitoring) will be taken on the current year's growth of key species. The measured stubble height lengths will be averaged for each key plant species measured. The interval for measurement will be every other pace, with measurements taken on the closest key plant species.

An allowable use of 20% is assigned to woody obligate riparian plant species located in Keller Canyon. The measurement of woody riparian species will be conducted using the grazed/ungrazed plant method. The San Francisco River is excluded from livestock grazing.

If, during the year, you feel that the utilization level is approaching the minimum stubble height, you will need to take some action to stop grazing the area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions you may take are appropriate and do not compound the problem.

At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percent grazing use and/or stubble height will be documented at that time. The following dates have been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key areas
West CCC	04/01/10	West CCC 1, 2 and 3 and Keller Canyon Area.
East CCC, River	05/15/10	East CCC 1, 2, and 3, River 1
South Cedar Breaks Alma Flat Mineral Creek	07/15/10	South Cedar Breaks 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 and Alma Flats.
North Cedar Breaks	09/01/10	North Cedar Breaks 1, 2, and 3
East CCC, River	11/30/10	East CCC 1, 2, and 3, River 1
Community	11/30/10	SE corner by house and near P1
Highway 180	11/30/10	Whole pasture
Wylie Morgan	11/30/10	Forest Service portion only
San Francisco River	periodic	Riparian area, verify no use.
Note: Monitoring would occur within 2 weeks before or after scheduled date.		

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock is below minimum stubble heights, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where stubble heights are greater than the minimum. In the event all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at minimum stubble heights, livestock will be required to move to the next scheduled pasture. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown or me if you have any questions or concerns