

**Agua Fria**  
 Quemado Ranger District  
 2012 Annual Operating Instructions  
 (01/04/12)

**Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:**

Permitted	From	To	Type
230 Cow/Calf	03/01	04/01	Term
230 Cow/Calf	06/16	02/28	Term

**2012 Annual Authorization:**

Authorized	From	To	Permit	Non-Use
186 Cow/Calf	06/16/12	10/15/12	Term	44 adult cattle
180 Cow/Calf	11/01/12	02/28/13	Term	50 adult cattle

**Non-Use**

As per FSM 2231.61 (Gila Supp #23), I am informing you that you have incurred 3 years of Personal Convenience Non-Use. In order to maintain full permitted numbers you are required to stock up to 90% of the permitted numbers by the 4<sup>th</sup> year (2013). If you foresee that, fully stocking by 2013 will not be possible. Please contact Monte on alternatives such as a Memorandum of Understanding allowing for Resource Protection Non-Use.

**2012 Pasture Rotation:**

Pasture	Start Date	End Date	Number of Head	Allowable Use
Private	03/01/12	06/15/12	NA	NA
East	06/16/12	10/15/12	186	40%
Private	10/16/12	10/30/12	NA	NA
Middle	11/01/12	12/31/12	180	40%
East	01/01/13	02/28/13	180	40%

Since 1999 private lands have been combined with the allotment and managed as one single ranch unit. This rotation was tentatively scheduled and is subject to change based on summer green up and forage availability. If at any time this schedule needs adjustment, please contact either Monte Topmiller or Sara Marta to discuss the change and develop an amendment to the current Annual Operating Instructions.

**Allowable Use:**

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient

ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Decision Notice dated 09/1/95 set guidelines for forage utilization in key areas of 40% allowable use. Within riparian areas that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area.

**Utilization Monitoring:**

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use, and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates will be set according to the previous year’s monitoring results. If pastures were approaching allowable use during the 2011 grazing season they would be monitored at the mid-point of the pasture use period to determine if it is necessary for livestock to be moved to the next pasture in the rotation. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the Agua Fria Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

**2012 Monitoring Dates:**

Pasture	Monitoring Date
East	10/02/12
Middle	12/26/12
East	02/13/13

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

**2011 Utilization Monitoring Results:**

Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use %
East	03/30/11	C1	18
East	03/30/11	P1	14
East	03/30/11	P12	9
West	07/28/11	C5	0
West	07/28/11	C7	0

Monitoring results for the 2011 grazing season shows 0 accounts of over use. I appreciate your efforts in complying with the allowable use guidelines this past grazing season and ask that you continue to do so during the 2012 grazing season.

**Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

If forage growth and/or water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2012 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

**Range Developments:**

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

**Actual Use:**

Actual use data provided to the District was calculated at 1041 AM's for the 2011 grazing season.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Monte Topmiller or Sara Marta at (575) 773-4678.

*/s/ Janice S. Stevenson*

JANICE S. STEVENSON  
District Ranger

1-17-12

Date