

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2012

John Richardson

INDIAN CREEK

Prepared By: /s/ Johnny Zapata
District Range Staff

Date: February 27, 2012

Approved By: /s/ Ramon L Torres
District Ranger

Date: February 27, 2012

Agreed to By: /s/ John Richardson
Permittee

Date: February 27, 2012

PERMITTED USE

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTED #	PERMITTED SEASON
Indian Creek	50 Cattle	03/01-02/28
Indian Creek	4 Horses	03/01-02/28

AUTHORIZED USE

ALLOTMENT	AUTHORIZED NUMBER	PASTURE	ON/OFF DATE	PASTURE INSTRUCTIONS
Indian Creek	50 Cattle	Allotment	03/01-02/28	Allotment is used as one pasture
Indian Creek	4 Horses	Allotment	03/01-02/28	

Management of Livestock

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 or section of pasture. You are responsible for 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. Failure to maintain control of your livestock could lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit.

Salting

Placement of salt will be used as a management tool to obtain even distribution of livestock and utilization of forage. Salt will be placed on areas of good forage production and light utilization. There will be no permanent salt grounds. Once the salt at a given salt ground has been used, the salt ground will be moved. Occasionally, cattle may have to be driven to new salt grounds to show them where it is. In this manner, it will be possible to draw the cattle into areas needing utilization. At no time will salt supplement be placed in areas of natural livestock concentration, closer than ¼ mile to either permanent or semi-permanent stock watering locations, within drainage bottoms or within visible distance to roads unless authorized by the District Ranger.

Utilization Guidelines

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. As outlined in the Decision Notice dated April 14, 1999, allowable use rates are set at 25% at all key areas on the Indian Creek Allotment.

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. If allowable use exceeds 25% in any key area of a pasture during the season of use, livestock will be moved to

the next pasture. If all remaining key areas in the allotment are at maximum use, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

Improvement Maintenance

All range improvements assigned in your Term Grazing Permit will be maintained in a good functioning condition. In the event improvements cannot be maintained in good functioning condition, you should notify this office, so we may schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. Please ensure that all fences are maintained in satisfactory condition.

This authorization allows for cutting 100 line posts, 100 corner posts, and 300 stays. Line posts are no larger than 6.5 feet in length and have a five-inch top diameter. Corner posts are no larger than eight feet in length and have a seven-inch top diameter. Stays may be cut from the limbs of trees cut for posts, sapling sized trees, and down snags. You are authorized to use this material under 36 CFR 223.2(a), Free Administrative Use. This authorization is valid for the calendar year 2012.

The following instructions must be followed when cutting any posts or stays under this authorization:

1. Stumps should be no higher than 12 inches above the ground.
2. Slash should be lopped to within 24 inches of the ground and scattered.
3. Cutting and removal of posts and stays should not be done when the soil moisture conditions would cause ruts to be cut.
4. No posts, stays, or by-products from them will be sold or used anywhere except on National Forest System lands within your allotment to maintain the range improvements assigned in your ten-year Term Permit.
5. All posts and stays will be cut within your allotment, unless another specific area is designated for cutting by the District Ranger.
6. Motorized / Mechanical equipment such as chainsaws may not be used in wilderness areas.

APPEAL RIGHTS

NEPA for the Indian Creek Allotment was completed on September 1, 1995. These Annual Operating Instructions are a reaffirmation of a prior decision and therefore may not be appealed.

Feel free to contact Johnny Zapata, or District Ranger Roman Torres, if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, conditions on your allotment, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, or any other concerns you may have.