

GILA NATIONAL FOREST  
WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT  
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2012

Headwaters Ranch Partnership

Mimbres  
Powderhorn  
Sapillo  
Sheppard



Prepared By: /s/ Johnny Zapata  
District Range Staff

Date: 02/06/2012

Approved By: /s/ Roman L Torres  
District Ranger

Date: 02/06/2012

Agreed to By: /s/ Jim Greer  
Permittee

Date: 02/06/2012

**PERMITTED USE**

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTED NUMBER	PERMITTED SEASON
Mimbres/Powderhorn/ Sapillo/Sheppard	235 Cattle	03/01-02/28
	10 Horses	03/01-02/28
Cow Creek	75 Cattle	03/01-02/28

**AUTHORIZED USE**

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTED NUMBER	PERMITTED SEASON
Mimbres/Powderhorn/ Sapillo	235 Cattle	03/01-02/28
	10 Horses	03/01-02/28
Cow Creek	Check With Silver City Office	

**SCHEDULED ROTATION**

ALLOTMENT	AUTHORIZED NUMBER	PASTURE	ON/OFF DATE
Mimbres/Powderhorn Sapillo/Sheppard	205	Kelly	03/01 - 03/15
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	205	North Star/ Divide trap	03/15 - 09/01
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	230	S. Skates	09/01 - 09/30
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	230	N. Skates	09/30 - 10/05
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	205	Kelly	10/05 - 02/28
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	25	Steer/Rocky	03/01 - 05/25
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	25	Biddle	05/25 - 09/01
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	Rest	Elk	
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo Sheppard	Rest	Railroad	
Mimbres/Powderhorn Sapillo/Sheppard	10 Horses	Permittee Preference	03/01 - 02/28
Cow Creek	Coordinate with the Silver City District		

**Scheduled rotation dates are approximate. If moves are planned greater than +/- 10 days of the above schedule, please contact the District. In addition, the rotation through these pastures may be affected by Rx burn plans. Current Permittee is in favor of burning and has been very flexible with the district fire program. If burning becomes a problem, an emergency change of rotation will be written and attached to this AOI. As always, there will be communication early and often with the Permittee.**

## **MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

The above schedule for stocking the allotments depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility is allowed for justifiable causes such as: weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range condition. **If there is a need to deviate from the above schedule by more than ten (10) days, you need to immediately notify the District Ranger of the proposed change.** The District Ranger must be notified five (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.

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. Failure to maintain control of your livestock could lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit. **You may begin to move cattle or open pasture gates to allow cattle to move from one pasture to another five (5) days prior to the scheduled rotation date, unless otherwise specified. The pasture the cattle are leaving should be “cleaned out” within (5) days after the scheduled date for moving. This will allow you ten (10) days to move cattle from one pasture to the next.**

## **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.**

## **COUNTS**

The permittee will notify the District Ranger or Range Staff at least five (5) days in advance of the date permitted livestock are either brought on or taken off the allotment.

## **UTILIZATION GUIDELINES**

Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition that ensures satisfactory watershed conditions. To maintain satisfactory watershed conditions, we have established a maximum allowable use of 35 percent in key areas. Key areas are as follows:

KEY AREA	UTILIZATION GUIDELINE	KEY SPECIES
McKnight Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Mimbres Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Powderhorn Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Flat N & S of Hwy 35 in Skates	35 %	Blue Grama
Rocky Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Divide Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama

Heifer Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama
Mesa Tops along N. Star Road	35 %	Blue Grama
Biddle Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama
Dutchman & Little McKnight Canyons	35 %	Blue Grama
Elk Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES/VANDALISM OF IMPROVEMENTS**

We are required by Congress and the State of New Mexico to diligently protect cultural resources. If you notice activity or a damaged Indian ruin, please call the District Office immediately. This also pertains to damage to range improvements and stolen property. We will then contact the Sheriff's Department and conduct a joint investigation. You may assist us by getting a good description of the individuals and/or vehicles including license numbers. We discourage you from contacting the suspected violators.

## **REVISIONS**

The Annual Operating Instructions may be revised and amended as necessary to provide better management on the allotments as the situation dictates. Any revisions will be approved by the Wilderness District Ranger.

## **MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

**All range improvements assigned in the ten-year Term Grazing Permit should be maintained in a good functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to good functioning condition, you should notify this office so we may schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.**

The permittee is responsible for maintenance on all assigned range improvements, as shown in grazing permit and colored on the permit map. Particular attention should be given to fence maintenance. Maintenance will consist primarily of keeping fences tight, replacing staples as necessary and servicing gates to see that they may be opened and closed easily.

Improvements that we have agreed to pursue funding for or that you should maintain in 2012 include:

IMPROVEMENT		ACTIVITY	FUNDING SOURCE
NAME	NUMBER		
JT Tank (Mimbres allotment)	5110	Clean (arch. Clearance complete)	Permittee
Trap Spring(Sheppard)*	5209	Cement work on rock header	Permittee
N. Rock Header(Sheppard)	5362	Rebuilding cement rock drinker	Permittee
Lake Superior(Sheppard)	5212	Clean Tank	Permittee
Pit Tank(Sheppard)	5371	Clean Tank	Permittee
Fence # 005226(Sheppard)	5226	Reconstruct	Permittee

*\*Sheppard Allotment will not be used in 2012 will not be maintenance this year.*

*Contact Johnny Zapata at least 30 days prior to project work to ensure appropriate paperwork and clearances are completed.*

Non-compliance with the instructions set forth in this authorization could lead to adverse actions taken against your Term Grazing Permit.

## **Appeal Rights**

The Mimbres, Powderhorn, Sapillo and Sheppard Allotments had NEPA completed on September 30, 2006. The Sheppard Allotment had NEPA completed September 28, 2007. These Annual Operating Instructions are a reaffirmation of a prior decision and therefore may

not be appealed.

Open and positive communication dealing with these or any other concerns is encouraged. Feel free to contact Johnny Zapata or District Ranger Roman (Ray) Torres if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, conditions on your allotments, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, or any other concerns you may have.