ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2012 Grazing Season
(3/01/2012-2/28/2013)

Reserve Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Deadman Allotment

Agreed To By: Mark and Kathryn Stieg Date: 1/12/2012

Mark and Kathryn Stieg, Collins Park Ranch LLC, *Permittees*

Approved By: John D. Pierson Date: 1/17/2012

John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

2012 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Deadman
Permittee: Mark and Kathryn Stieg: Collins Park Ranch, LLC
Permit Number: 61394

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Collins Park Ranch, LLC	112 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Collins Park Ranch, LLC	2 Horses	Term	3/01-2/28

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2012:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Collins Park Ranch, LLC	112 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Collins Park Ranch, LLC	2 Horses	Term	3/01-2/28

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

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. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Reserve Ranger District Office. **Note**: Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is $100.00 or more and District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

Bovine Trichinosis: Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if under 12 months of age. As of 2/26/10, bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have a negative trich test within 30 days prior to entry. **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico. Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls sold within the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details.

2. **Management**: Deadman 2012 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Eagle Peak	3/01-6/15
Telephone	6/16-7/15
Collins Park	7/16-8/20
Barrel	8/21-11/10
Eagle Peak	11/11-2/28

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**
Per the 6/08/2007 Deadman Allotment Decision Memo and 7/10/2007 Deadman Allotment Management Plan, the maximum allowable use level set for the Deadman Allotment is **35% (Conservative use approx. 30-40%).** Use of browse is not to exceed **50%** level. Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. If utilization / seasonal utilization levels are approaching allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be removed to areas within the pasture that are not approaching allowable use levels and/or management changes will be made to the rotation schedule the following year. In the event that areas not approaching allowable use levels are not available, livestock will be removed from the allotment. In the event of over utilization, changes will be made to the following year's AOI to prevent recurring instances of over utilization. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with district personnel and/or on your own.

Pasture	Monitoring date
Eagle Peak	6/19/2012
Telephone	7/17/2012
Collins Park	8/21/2012
Barrel	11/14/2012
Eagle Peak	2/26/2013

4. **Forage Growth and Water Availability:**
Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2012 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

5. **Salt and Supplement Policy**
   Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:
   a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
   b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
   c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
   d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
   e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands.

6. **Grazing Restriction:**
   The Deadman allotment includes Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (PAC). In these PAC's the following activities are restricted during the breeding season (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting. Routine maintenance of range improvements is allowed.

7. **Range Improvements:**
   All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

   Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work to inquire about the availability of materials, necessary clearances and for a permit modification.

   Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

   The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

   Fences:

   1. Cattleguard needs to be installed along FR #3189 in the allotment boundary fence #6233. Surveys will need to be completed prior to implementation.
   2. Cattleguard along Fence #6293 will be cleaned by permittee.
   3. Fence #6294 needs approximately one half mile of repair in northern portion.
   4. Holding #1 Pasture fence in the northwest corner needs reconstructed approximately one quarter mile north of private land.
   5. Fence #3046 needs approximately 1.5 miles of repair in Southern portion of Telephone pasture. Fence will be looked at for re-alignment and all surveys will be completed in compliance with the 6/14/2007 Deadman Allotment Decision Memo.

Water Systems:

6. Elk Horn Spring #006436 needs maintenance.
7. TopTank #006437 needs maintenance.

8. **The Deadman Allotment Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found 6/14/2007 Deadman Allotment Decision Memo, the 7/10/2007 Allotment Management Plan and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.