Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2013

Harve Gulch Allotment #409

Mogollon Allotment #413

Prepared By: /s/ D. K. Brown **Date:** 12/19/2012
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ Pat Morrison **Date:** 12/19/2012
District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Pat Morrison, Kendall Brown and Allen Graves met with you on December 19, 2012, to discuss management of the Harve Gulch Allotment (and selected pastures of Mogollon Allotment) during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and class of livestock	Dates
79 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28

Harve Gulch Allotment Annual Authorization

Number and Class of livestock	Dates Authorized
79 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
15 Cattle – cow/calf (Mogollon)	03/01 – 02/28

Harve Gulch Allotment Pasture Rotation

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/15	Hospital, Whitewater (Harve Gulch), Whitewater (Mogollon)
Cow/Calf	04/16 – 08/31	East Harve Gulch
Cow/Calf	09/01 – 10/15	West Harve Gulch
Cow/Calf	10/16 – 11/15	Bursum, Mogollon, Mineral creek small pastures
Cow/Calf	11/16 – 02/28	Carcass Basin (Harve Gulch) Upper Houston/Golddust (Mogollon) Split herd

NOTE – no cattle are permitted within the town of Mogollon or in Whitewater Creek. If cattle are found in these locations, they must be removed promptly and fences constructed or repaired to keep cattle out of these areas.

Scheduling of use of pastures in the Mogollon allotment is dependent on reconstruction/maintenance of necessary fences to control livestock use and the availability of water.

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. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the District Ranger of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved by the District Ranger verbally or in writing. 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.

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 should be maintained in a 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.

The district office is offering ½ mile of fence materials on a first come first serve basis for the reconstruction of allotment boundary fences that are beyond repair. Based on your statement, your exterior boundary fences do not need reconstruction and are cow tight. Inspections of range developments in 2007 confirmed your statement. I appreciate your diligence in maintaining range improvements.

You widened and leveled the spillways for Upper Twin Tank (004271), Lower Twin Tank (004270), and Frisco Tank (004195) but the spillways need hardening. You plan on using erosion blocks to prevent cutting on these spillways. These blocks will be provided to you by the Glenwood Ranger Station. Cultural clearances are in place for these tanks.

We agree to evaluate water improvements on the Mogollon allotment for maintenance or reconstruction.

You may apply for a free use post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on your allotment.

We will check on cultural resource clearances before you replace the pipeline from Harve Gulch Windmill to drinker near Highway 180.

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 burns 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 close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting you contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers; dates of entering and leaving pastures, shipping dates and cattle losses (grown stock and calves). This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information

demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

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.

It is necessary for you to write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox. This is necessary to insure that your payment is credited to your account.

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 not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be **certified weed free** hay and you must provide the proper documentation.

c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks or molasses licks on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.

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 ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use. **Do not place salt in the areas delineated on the attached map.**

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Harve Gulch and Mogollon Allotments are currently going through the environmental analysis process. Until the analysis process is complete (2013), management direction will be provided in these Annual Operating Instructions.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you are in favor of Fire Use on your allotment. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

Fence 3104 needs stays and a few posts due to Whitewater/Baldy fire. The fence from the cattle guard on Bursum road south needs stays, Forest Service will do this work.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

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 winter and spring is dry and warm. If dry conditions continue through the summer growing season, a reduction in herd size may be recommended. If the herd size is reduced, restocking of allotments to full numbers will not take place until forage plants regain vigor.

VIII. UTILIZATION MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

Monitoring schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Use	Key Area
East Harve Gulch (Mgmt Unit 1 grazing intensity), West Harve Gulch	05/01, 09/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	T1, T2
Upper Bursum	07/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	various.
Mineral (Mineral, Oaks, Holding on Mogollon) Lower Houston	10/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	various.
Carcass Basin, Upper Houston/Golddust	02/28	Conservative (31 – 40%)	various.

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of use within a pasture (utilization mapping). Verification of ocular estimates will be conducted using common methodology such as weigh/clip, grazed plant numbers, or stubble height. Grazing use will be described and mapped in the following utilization categories.

Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to no-use	< 30%	Only choice plants and areas show use. There is no use of poor forage plants.
Conservative	31-40%	Choice forage plants have abundant seed stalks. Areas more than a mile from water show little use. About on third to one half of primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate	41-50%	Most of accessible range shows use. Key areas show patch appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants showing use. Grazing is noticeable in zone 1-1.5 miles from water.
Heavy	51-60%	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas. Palatable shrubs show hedging. Key areas show a lack of seed stalks. Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1.5 miles from water.
Severe	61 +%	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no stubble height). Shrubs are severely hedged. There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage. Areas over 1.5 miles from water lack stubble height.
Holechek, J.L. and D. Galt. 2000. Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Rangelands 22(3), pg 11-14.		

If the utilization guideline for the pasture is exceeded on 30% or more of the pasture in any year, livestock will be immediately removed from the pasture. Within a pasture, areas found to exceed allowable use will become key areas for monitoring the following year. The AOI for the next year will be adjusted to correct livestock management practices (distribution, number, timing, salt and water availability, etc.) that may have led to the overuse.

In the event that 30 percent or more of the pasture exceeds the set allowable use in a grazing year, that area will be required to be less than or equal to allowable use the next year. If that same area, or a substantial portion of the same area, exceeds allowable use in two consecutive grazing years the entire pasture will be rested for one calendar year and stocking will be adjusted to balance with forage supplies. If the same area of a pasture exceeds allowable use in two years out of five, the stocking rate and management plan will be adjusted to balance with forage supply.

Monitoring of utilization on woody riparian will be conducted in the areas below and concurrently with the associated pasture. (See Table Below)

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
West Harve Gulch	San Francisco River from the Harve Gulch drainage to the North boundary of the Bighorn Allotment.	Excluded by fencing and natural barrier.	0%
Carcass Basin	San Francisco River from the Harve Gulch drainage down stream to private land.	Excluded by fencing and natural barrier.	0%
Mogollon Allotment	Mineral Creek (light)		light
Mogollon Allotment	Whitewater Creek (no use)		(___)%

If allowable use is exceeded on 30% or more of the riparian reach within the pasture, livestock will be removed from the pasture. If that same reach, or a substantial portion of the same reach, exceeds allowable use in two consecutive grazing years the entire pasture will be rested for one calendar year and stocking will be adjusted to prevent overuse of the riparian reach. If the same reach of a pasture exceeds allowable use in two years out of five, the stocking rate and management plan will be adjusted to prevent overuse of the riparian reach.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District to obtain approval of change(s). Advanced notice of change is requested so that field inspections can be conducted. Verbal approval of changes will be followed with a letter documenting the change. Failure to follow the instructions provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).

IX. APPEAL RIGHTS

This Annual Operating Instruction decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see attached copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with **Kelly Russell, Forest Supervisor, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061,** within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with **Pat Morrison, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P.O. Box 8, Glenwood, NM 88039.**

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

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy
and
Use of National Forest System Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

(a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.

(b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:

(1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;

(2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;

(3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;

(4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;

(5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;

(6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.

(7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and

(8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.

(c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]