



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 31th 2019

O-C Ranch LLC.

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Dear O-C Ranch

The following are your 2019 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Walnut grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan, and available information describing range conditions.

Authorized Use

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Rocky Dublin	January 1 st March 2 nd	March 1 st	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 66 yearlings	6 horses will be rotated on and off through pastures as needed for livestock management.
Haystack	March 3 rd April 13 th	April 12 th	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 66 yearlings	
Lann	April 14 th May 11 th	May 15 th	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 66 yearlings	All cattle must be out of this pasture by no later than May 15 th .
Cottonwood	May 12 th July 20 th	July 19 th	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls	
Edward Spring	July 21 st October 12 th	October 11 th	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls	
Walnut	October 13 th November 30 th	November 29 th	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls	
Juniper	December 1 st Next AOI	TBD	75 Cow/calf 4 Bulls	



Monitoring:

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.

Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

Vegetative Use Guidelines:

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

Vegetation	Use Threshold
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks (if applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum
Annual Grasses	50% of current year's growth

Range Improvement Maintenance:

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2019 authorized range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Rocky Dublin	Hymnbook and Rocky Dublin	Add pipeline and storage tank above Rocky Dublin Well	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.
Juniper	Paige wire Tank	Add trap around Paige wire Tank	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.
Edwards Spring	Artesian Well and Pierce Basin Tank	Add a pipeline from the Artesian Well up to the storage tank at Pierce Basin	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.
Walnut/Juniper	Walnut Spring	Add new pipeline to Walnut Spring and into the Juniper Pasture then add new storage and troughs	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.
Haystack	Rocky Dublin Corral down	Run a pipeline from the 71 Corral down fence line to an existing trough	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.
Juniper	Grapevine Spring,	Build Weir at spring source	Within Maintenance of developed spring, no clearances needed.

Salting:

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

Supplements and Attractants

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

Supplemental Feeding:

No supplemental feeding is authorized.