



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
Clifton Ranger District

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File Code: 2210, 2230
Date: March 9, 2021

Dear Permittee,

So, I want to say thank you again and further applaud the efforts you are making to mitigate the effects of the on-going drought. Livestock capacity of the range on the Clifton Ranger District is decreasing at an alarming rate and the drought conditions are predicted to continue. As you know we took application on all allotments only partially through the season. This letter will discuss the details of how we will proceed, relative what has been authorized on your GY21 AOI.

For the allotments remaining stocked with any number of livestock; we must be able to validate available forage anywhere that you believe that there is enough of a reachable forage base to support continued grazing. Based upon the data collected, communications and recommendations from you with my range personnel; grazing applications may be taken from your present end date to another probably no more than 1-3 months further into GY21.

We need you to continue to work with us cooperatively over the next month and a half for the May 15 dated AOI's to take an unbiased look at forage conditions and water availability on your allotments. We will work with you when we can; however, without the data; whether we help collect it or not, we will not be able to authorize continued grazing. The plan forward involves data collection and discussions two weeks prior to the off date on your GY21 AOI. Again, if good data is not collected prior to two weeks prior to the off date of the AOI, grazing will not be authorized past that date.

Data should include high quality pictures of forage with a standing ruler visible in the picture with GPS coordinates of the location, and GPS coordinates of the nearest water with pictures of accessible water. The location of the data collection sites must be at such locations that they represent areas that cattle regularly use (Key Areas) under near normal conditions. Data must also be collected at known monitoring points with GPS coordinates of the closest water to those key monitoring points. Similar data can be collected at any other location that will sufficiently help us make decisions.

If you need to discuss any of this content further feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Ed Holloway Jr District Ranger

