



File Code: 2230
Date: February 26, 2019

Red Creek Ranch LLC.
Grazing Permittee
7700 Slayton Ranch Rd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

2019 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Red Creek, Six Bar and Skeleton Ridge grazing allotments

Permittee: Red Creek / Houston Creek Ranch, LLC

Permit Number: 12126, 12127, 12129

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Red Creek Ranch, LLC (Red Creek Allt.)	519 Cow/ Calf	Term	3/1-2/28
Red Creek Ranch, LLC (Red Creek Allt.)	339 Yearlings	Term	1/1-5/31
Houston Creek Ranch, LLC (Skeleton Ridge Allt.)	260 Cow/ Calf	Term	3/1-2/28
Houston Creek Ranch, LLC (Skeleton Ridge Allt.)	170 Yearlings	Term	1/1-5/31
Houston Creek Ranch, LLC (Skeleton Ridge Allt.)	20 Cow/ Calf	Term	11/1-3/31
Red Creek Ranch, LLC (Six Bar Allt.)	700 Weaner Calf	Term	11/15 -6/15

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2018:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Red Creek / Houston Creek Ranch, LLC	774 Cow/Calf	Term	3/1/2017-2/28/2018
Red Creek / Houston Creek Ranch, LLC	34 Bulls	Term	6/1/2017-2/28/2018



Red Creek / Houston Creek Ranch, LLC	313 Yearlings	Term	1/1/2017-5/31/2017
Red Creek / Houston Creek Ranch, LLC	5 Horses	Term	3/1/2017-2/28/2018

2. Management: South Red Creek and Six Bar 2019 Pasture Rotation:

Grazing Pasture	Dates of Use	Authorized Livestock	Comments
Mud Springs / Six Bar	Mar. 1- June 15	467 Cow/Calf, 12 Bulls, 313 Yearlings	Will begin cleaning pasture May 1
Cedar Push / Red Creek	May 1 – May 31	467 Cow/Calf, 12 Bulls, 313 Yearlings	Pasture will be cleaned by May 31. Used as a holding pasture to work the cattle
Mustang / Red Creek	June 15 - Sept. 15	514 Cow/Calf, 23 Bulls	
Roundtree / Red Creek	Sept. 16 – Nov 30	514 Cow/Calf, 23 Bulls	Cattle will begin moving November 15 th
Cedar push / Red Creek	Nov 15 – Nov 30	514 Cow/Calf, 23 Bulls	Pasture will be cleaned by Nov 30. Used as a pass-through pasture to work the cattle
Middle Fork / Six Bar	Dec. 1 – Feb. 28	514 Cow/Calf, 23 Bulls	

North Red Creek and Skeleton ridge

Sodas and Yellow jacket / Red Creek	March 1 – April 30	260 Cow/Calf	Yearlings removed from base herd during spring works
Long Mesa / Skeleton Ridge	June 1 – July 15	260 Cow/Calf, 11 Bulls	Cattle will begin gathering into the holding pasture beginning Nov 1
Houston Basin / Skeleton Ridge	July 16 – Oct. 31	260 Cow/Calf, 8 Bulls	
West Cold Water / Skeleton Ridge	Nov. 1 – Feb 28	260 Cow/Calf, 8 Bulls	

The above table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing pasture and anticipated use dates. Numbers of livestock or rotation may be adjusted if the utilization standards or other management objectives of the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) are not being achieved. If you identify the need to differ from this management system, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the District personnel have time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

Riparian vegetation can be monitored any time the cattle are in the pasture to ensure that there is residual vegetation present for streambank protection during flow events.

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.

If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas that have met allowable use, or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years AOI to avoid recurring situations. It is your responsibility as Permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds.

Vegetation	*Utilization Standards
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Vegetation	*Utilization Standards
Riparian emergent species	Maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 40% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks

*Utilization standards are tiered to the Red Creek Creek Allotment Management Plan, the Six Bar Allotment Management Plan, the Skeleton Ridge Allotment Management Plan, and/or the Forest Plan.

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 2019 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 .25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the 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. Feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands is prohibited.

6. Range Improvements:

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 or repairs are 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 vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, and springs, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following table describes 2019 authorized range improvement projects:

Pasture	Improvement	Description of Work
All Pastures / Skeleton Ridge	Dirt Stock Tanks	Cleaning stock tanks
Yellow Jacket / Red Creek	Yellow Jacket Corral	Repair the corral
All Pastures / Red Creek	Springs	Replace pipe and maintain existing spring developments
Red Creek and Skeleton Ridge	Fences	Maintain fences where necessary

To address resource concerns, the following mitigation measures must be followed:

- Completion of maintenance will be done using backhoes with rubber wheels or bulldozers no larger than a Caterpillar D7.

- Bentonite may be worked into soils of the dirt tanks in order to bind soil for increased tank effectiveness. The Forest Service may have bentonite available upon request. All dirt tank work will be confined within the existing tank basin. No additional ground disturbance is authorized outside the existing basins, earthen dams or travel path of the equipment to the tanks.
- Cleaning bar ditches is not authorized. Bar ditches will be evaluated on a case by case basis upon request.
- You may not drop the blade on your equipment until your machine is within the existing tank except to push an occasional boulder or tree out of your path.
- Confine all activities to existing disturbance from previous construction and existing vehicular travel ways. If the previous access or cat trails are not apparent, contact our office so we may clear a route free of cultural resources. Please leave no evidence of your route to the tank and do not improve the route to the tank. If you are unable to do so, please contact the district.
- You may cut wooden stays where appropriate only for use in fence maintenance.

This is a one-time authorization to access the tanks cross country for maintenance. You are not authorized to access the tanks via motorized means once the maintenance has been completed. Illegal cross country travel is a concern on the District. I want to discourage any interpretation of the access routes to the tanks as authorized roads for the public.

7. Invasive Plants:

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants. If you see a plant you do not recognize, please document it and submit it to the District for identification.

- 8. The Red Creek, Six Bar and Skeleton Ridge Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 6. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the August 22nd 1985 Red Creek Creek Allotment Management Plan, the December 18th 1995 Six Bar Allotment Management Plan, the February 5th 1991 Skeleton Ridge Allotment Management Plan, and in the Tonto National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Red Creek, Six Bar and Skeleton Ridge grazing allotments. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

Approved By:



MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger