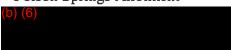


Forest Service Tonto Basin Ranger District 28079 N HWY 188 Roosevelt, AZ 85545 Phone: 928.467.3200 Fax: 928.467.3239

File Code: 2210

Date: February 11th 2019

J Bar B Cattle Co. LLP Poison Springs Allotment



Dear John:

The following are your 2019 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Poison Springs 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	Authorized	Notes/Comments
		Date	Livestock	
Intake	March 1st	April 26 th	115 Cows	
	April 27 th		10 Bulls	
Blevins	April 28 th	October 11 th	115 Cows	
	October 19 th		10 Bulls	
Klondike	October 20 th	December	115 Cows	
	December 14 th	13 th	10 Bulls	
Summit	December 15 th	January 31st	115 Cows	
	February 8 th		10 Bulls	
Intake	February 8 th –	TBD	115 Cows	
	Next AOI		10 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
Klondike/Summit	Klondike Water System	Move location of troughs previously authorized	Archeological and biological clearances needed prior to beginning work.
Klondike and Summit	Klondike Water System	Extend pipeline from previously authorized storage tank to Summit Well then down towards Highway 288	Archeological and biological clearances needed as well as Decision Memo prior to any work being conducted.

Summit	Summit Well	Adjust division fence to meet with the corral	Archeological and biological clearances needed as well as Decision Memo prior to any work being conducted.
Intake	Poison Spring	Extend pipeline from Poison Spring WS down towards the Lake	Archeological and biological clearances needed as well as Decision Memo prior to any work being conducted.
Multiple	Multiple	Look at Installing cattle guards at multiple locations	Archeological clearance needed as well as letter authorizing work prior to any work being conducted.

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.

Weeds

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hoskins, Range Management Specialist, at (602) 225-5332.

Sincerely,

All Mandian

KELLY L. JARDINE

District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins Ina Yazzie