



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 23<sup>th</sup> 2017

(b) (6)  
Dagger Allotment

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Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2017 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Dagger 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   |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| Oak Creek Mesa                   | January 1 <sup>st</sup><br>May 30 <sup>st</sup>      | May 26 <sup>th</sup>       | 175 Cow/calf<br>15 Bulls<br>20 Yearlings | Timing based on water availability in Dirt Tanks             |
| Upper Bull Canyon and Upper Coon | May 1 <sup>st</sup><br>July 30 <sup>th</sup>         | July 28 <sup>th</sup>      | 175 Cow/calf<br>15 Bulls                 | Plan on using the Bull canyon road area into the Wilderness. |
| Rock and Ellison                 | August 1 <sup>st</sup><br>September 30 <sup>th</sup> | September 29 <sup>th</sup> | 175 Cow/calf<br>15 Bulls                 | Use pastures together  |
| Upper Dry Creek                  | October 1 <sup>st</sup><br>January 31 <sup>st</sup>  | January 26 <sup>th</sup>   | 175 Cow/calf<br>15 Bulls                 |  |
| Little Sheep and North Sheep     | November 1 <sup>st</sup><br>January 31 <sup>st</sup> | January 26 <sup>th</sup>   | 175 Cow/calf<br>15 Bulls                 | Split herd between both pastures.                            |

**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.

| <b>Vegetation</b>                            | <b>Use Threshold</b>   |
|--|--|
| 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 2017 authorized range improvement projects.

| <b>Pasture</b>           | <b>Location</b>               | <b>Description of Work</b> | <b>Clearances Needed</b>                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Upper Coon Creek Pasture | Upper Coon, West Devore Fence | Rework fence               | None, Existing improvement. Maintenance only. |
| North Sheep              | East Fork Spring              | Replace Pipeline           | None, Existing improvement. Maintenance only  |

|                     |            |  |  |
|---------------------|------------|--|--|
| North Sheep Pasture | Adobe Well | Look into possibility of adding a pumping station, storage, pipeline and trough. | Archeological, Biological and Decision Memo. No work can be started until all clearances are complete and Decision Memo is issued. |
|---------------------|------------|--|--|

**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:**

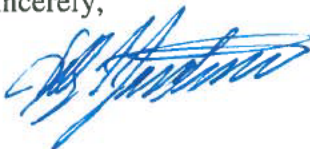
No supplemental feeding is authorized.

**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, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (928) 467-3236.

Sincerely,



KELLY L. JARDINE  
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins  
Ina Yazzie