

**CLIFTON RANGER DISTRICT
APACHE/SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)
T-Link Ranches, Bob Fletcher**

**Pigeon Allotment
2012**

I. PERMITTED USE:

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and season of use permitted on the Pigeon Allotment as per Term Grazing Permit 031901 issued to T-Link Ranches Inc., Bob Fletcher on January 17, 2006.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBERS	AUM	SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	499	7904	3/1 – 2/28
Horses	Mature	10	144	3/1 – 2/28
	Total		8048	

II. AUTHORIZED USE:

The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Pigeon Allotment this year.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBERS	AUM	SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	0	0	3/1 – 2/28
Horses	Mature	11	173	3/1 – 2/28
	Total		173	

III. ROTATION SCHEDULE:

Actual dates may vary dependent on utilization levels, range conditions and time required moving livestock.

PASTURE	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE	USE STANDARD
HL/Spring Canyon	11	4/1 – 2/28	35 – 45%
Four Bar	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Cow Canyon	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Chitty	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Horse	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Pigeon	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Turkey Creek	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Dog Flat	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Sun Flower	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Pat Mesa	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Blue Trap, Wells Trap, Holding Trap, WJ Trap, Joe Tank Trap, Loading Trap, Shipping Trap	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

Allowable use of forage is based on the amount and kind of forage on the allotment, plant needs, range condition, trend, and grazing management strategy. Duration, frequency, and timing may be manipulated within the grazing schedule to meet allowable use standards.

The allowable use levels for this allotment are established for key areas and key species by pasture for the time period livestock are in a pasture. The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21.

For simplicity, key areas are generally considered as follows: 1) full capacity rangeland located on ridge tops/mesas within a 1/4 mile from available water sources; 2) canyon bottoms/riparian areas with free flowing water or springs regardless of distance from water; 3) any area containing full capacity range with erosive soils and insufficient/marginal ground cover to protect the soil; or 4) areas containing habitat, whether occupied, suitable and unoccupied, or potentially suitable habitat, for threatened, endangered, or proposed species that are of concern to the Forest Service.

Key areas may be designated in cooperation with the Forest Service and the permittee.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The permittee will record actual use as it occurs; including livestock numbers and dates your permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual validation meeting.
2. Any change or deviation from this Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated with the District. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, the permittee will notify the District as soon as practical.
3. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.
4. Livestock should be moved when forage utilization objectives have been met or within 1 week of planned rotation dates, unless changes have been confirmed with District Range personnel.
5. The District may spot check range improvements before the entry date to insure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock are not allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Typically, salt or mineral blocks are not to be placed within a quarter mile of water or drainage bottoms. Salt may be placed closer than a quarter of a mile to water for treatment purposes. If salt is placed less than a quarter mile from water, it will be moved every day or within 4 days at the most to a new location no matter where the salt is placed. Salt will be used to attract cattle to areas of a pasture typically not utilized and or for soil/range condition treatment purposes. Blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, meadow bottoms or roads. Blocks should be placed in a way that does not encourage erosion but treats the soil to upgrade it from the present condition.

VII. MONITORING

Monitoring and evaluation is an essential aspect of good rangeland management. Monitoring and evaluation can be described as the gathering of information so the manager knows what is happening to rangeland resources and why. The intent of monitoring and evaluation is to test the success of the management strategy and if needed, make adjustments. The following types of monitoring can be collected and will be used by the Forest Service for management decisions.

1. Forage Production
2. Forage Utilization
3. Photo Points
4. Condition of Improvements
5. Actual Use
6. Grazing Response Index
7. Precipitation.