

BLUE BELL AND WOLF CREEK ALLOTMENTS 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

PLANNING OBJECTIVES

- Identification of specific management tools/resource objectives and constraints for this grazing season.
- Review general permit administration and livestock management requirements.
- Document any needs or agreements beyond the standard directions.

AUTHORIZATION

Upon payment of fees livestock are authorized as follows for 2016 - 2017:

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified to meet utilization)</u>
200	Longfellow	3/1/16 to 4/15/16
200	Ledar	4/16 to 5/31
200	Bluebell	6/1 to 7/15
200	Mineral	7/16 to 8/31
200	HA4	9/1 to 9/30
200	Longfellow	10/1 to 12/31
200	Battle Flat	1/1/17 to 2/28/17

Note: 7/7/16 - 2 weeks longer in Bluebell, no water in Mineral
 - Longfellow utilization watched, if met permittee will utilize RR holding, Gasoline Holding, and Geary to move into, ~~Permittee~~ Ledar. Permittee will call FS if holdings are needed, holdings will not be utilized longer than 2 weeks each.

MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Follow forage and browse use standards. Utilization needs to be at a level that allows for sufficient litter to protect soils and watershed conditions and provide an opportunity for perennial grasses and major browse species to maintain or improve their vigor. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, regardless of the planned move dates shown below. Maximum allowable use: **Uplands:** *On palatable grasses:* 40% while actively growing, 55% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders. **Riparian:** *On palatable grasses and sedges:* 30% of the total weight available. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders. Moves are based on meeting either allowable use (shrubs or grasses).

- Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.
- The thoughtful placement of salt, mineral, and protein is a valuable distribution aid. Do not place salt, protein, or other supplements in heavy use areas or within a ¼ mile of water (this includes seeps and springs). Instead, place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.
- The Forest Officer must be given actual use, by pasture.
- Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if a week or two in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer promptly.
- You are responsible for your representatives and/or employees following all Forest Officer instructions.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION OR BETTERMENT

- Maintenance will follow the standards in your Part 3 of your grazing permit. In addition to routine maintenance, the following is planned for this year:

- Permitter trying to buy dozer to clean tanks - already cleared
 - Permitter trying to find fence crew to help with all fence/hoes, also trying to find other day workers to help with backflow of maintenance.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

Permitter needs to concentrate on fence lines and pasture rotation. This year has been (El Niño) wet, 5 inches of rain since 11/15, allowed for flexibility in rotation, next year might have to depend on dirt tank maintenance.

July 1, 2016 deadline for Trick Tank install + aprons.

PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit).

AGREED TO BY: Sandy Hanks 1 Feb. 2016
 Permitter Date

APPROVED BY: [Signature] 2 Feb. 2016
 Bradshaw District Ranger Date