



File Code: 2230

Date: January 31, 2020

2020 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Copper Creek
Permittee: JH Cattle Company, LLC
Permit Numbers: 300

Permitted Use:

| Permittee | Numbers | Type | Season |
|------------------------|----------------|------|-----------|
| JH Cattle Company, LLC | 300 Cow / Calf | Term | 1/1-12/31 |
| JH Cattle Company, LLC | 300 Yearlings | Term | 1/1-5/31 |

1. Authorization: Authorized to graze the following in 2020:

| Permittee | Numbers | Type | Season |
|------------------------|----------|------|-------------|
| JH Cattle Company, LLC | 250 C/C | Term | 07/01-10/31 |
| JH Cattle Company, LLC | 15 Bulls | Term | 07/01-10/31 |

2. Management: Cartwright 2020 Pasture Rotation:

| Grazing Pasture | Dates of Use | Authorized Livestock | Comments |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Perry Mesa | July 1, 2020- August 31, 2020 | 250 + 15 | Conditions will be checked to ensure rotation. Schedule may change throughout the year. |
| Brooklyn | September 1, 2020- September 30, 2020 | 250 + 15 | Conditions will be checked to ensure rotation. Schedule may change throughout the year. |
| Cornstalk | October 1, 2020- October 31, 2020 | 250 + 15 | Conditions will be checked to ensure rotation. Schedule may change throughout the year. |



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 within 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 District personnel have time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

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 with less 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 in future AOI's 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 |
| 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 |

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 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 0.25 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 2020 authorized range improvement projects.

| Improvement | Location | Description of Work |
|---|--|--|
| Springs: maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copper Spring• Shirttail Spring | Clean out spring source and replace the associated troughs and storage to working order. These springs are already approved for maintenance. |
| Dirt/Stock Tank: maintenance | None was identified in AOI meeting. | Clean out stock tank, repair dams and other breaches, stay on existing routes. If surveys haven't been done, please notify us. |
| Fences: Maintenance/ reconstruction | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconstruction of 2 miles of fence (2180) between fence 1535 and 1715. | See map for details. These fence reconstructions are approved. Let range staff know when you are ready to proceed for a permit |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of 3 miles of fence (2180) between fence 1897 and ending at road 611 intersection. • Maintenance of exclosure fences around North and South Campbell Tanks | modification letter. |
| New Water Systems and Maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged Windmill- clean out pipes • Concrete Well- change pump • New Water Developments labeled WD 1- 13 in Copper Creek EA signed 1-26-18. | Proceed only after permit modification has been signed and issued for NEW systems. |

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.

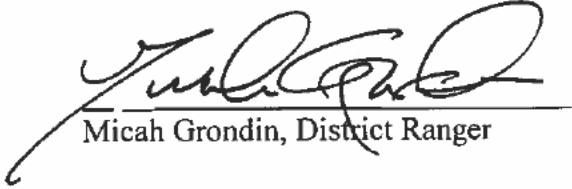
8. The Copper Creek Allotment Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 7(a). The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the January 2018 Decision Notice for the Copper Creek Allotment and in the Tonto National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Copper Creek Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

9. Projects for District to work on:

- a. Review Brooklyn Fire scar for possible reentry to control brush and Junipers, along the 44 road in the Granite-Mesa Butte pasture, sections 21 and 22. Also evaluate for invasives.
- b. Need permit to cut stays. (enclosed)
- c. Issue 10 year term permit. (enclosed)
- d. Survey Silver Creek for Gila Chub habitat and the need to fence out riparian.

10. Upcoming meetings:

- a. Fire Ecology with Dave Ramirez: March 3, 2020, 10-12:00.



Micah Grondin, District Ranger

3/30/2020
Date

Permittee

Date
