



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

28079 N HWY 188
Roosevelt, AZ 85545
Phone: 602.225.5395
Fax: 602.225.5354

File Code: 2210

Date: January 23rd 2020

(b) (6)

Tonto Basin Allotment

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2020 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Tonto Basin 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	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Sycamore	December 15 th March 1 st	March 6 th	125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 84 Yearlings	
Park Creek/Reno	March 1 st May 15 st	May 15 th	125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 84 Yearlings	
Long Mesa	May 15 st July 31 st	July 31 st	125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 84 Yearlings	Yearlings removed by May 31 st
Pagewire	July 31 st September 30 th	September 25 th	125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls	
Lambing	September 30 th January 15 th	TBD	125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls	
Kayler	Next AOI		125 Cow/calf 4 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 2020 proposed range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Pagewire	Juniper Camp Spring	Construction of new pipeline, Storage Tank and expand corral	Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work.
Kayler	Hackberry Spring WS	Add a pipeline from existing pipe to new trough near Horse Canyon	Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work.
Kayler	Chinaberry WS	Add a storage to an existing pipe line and move existing trough	Archeological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work.
Multiple	Quartz Ledge Tank, Unnamed Tanks, Malone Tank, Trap Tank	Clean out tanks and add bentonite	Contact district prior to working on any tanks.
Quartz Ledge and Kayler	Pasture Division Fence	Construct small holding pasture or corral	Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work
Sycamore and Mesquite	Nook Spring	Add a storage tank and four troughs to new water system	Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work

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.