

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION

2009-2010

CEDAR SPRINGS, SEVENTY SIX & TWO TROUGHS ALLOTMENTS
76 RANCH CATTLE CO., L.L.C., PERMITTEE
Safford Ranger District
Coronado National Forest

I. AUTHORIZATION You are authorized to graze the following in 2009-2010.

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>
RP Non-use	Cedar Springs	11/01/09 - 03/31/10
285	Seventy Six	11/01/09 - 03/31/10
100	Two Troughs	11/01/09 - 03/03/10

II. ADMINISTRATION The following procedures will be followed:

1. Grazing fees must be paid before placing livestock on the allotment.
2. At least 5 days notice must be given the District before placing livestock on the allotment.
3. Sub-leasing is prohibited. You must own the livestock placed on the allotment. They must be branded and registered in your name. A current copy of your brand certificate must be on file at the district office.
4. The permittee will record actual use as it occurs. Information should be recorded as it occurs. "Actual use as it occurs" means livestock numbers and dates your permitted livestock are in a pasture. It also means livestock on your allotment from an adjacent allotment as a result of broken fences or open gates.
5. Any change or deviation from this Annual Operating Provision is to be coordinated and confirmed at least 14 days in advance with the District. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, the permittee will notify the District as soon as possible.
6. Failure to place livestock on the allotment on time is not sufficient reason for an extension of the grazing season.
7. If you elect to take non-use, it must be requested in writing at least 30 days prior to the grazing period.
8. Any request for an extension in the grazing season will be done at least 14 days before the end of the grazing season. Livestock left on the allotment after the "off" date may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit and will be charged for at the commercial rate.
9. Livestock allowed to remain in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, allowed to drift between pastures, or allowed in a rested pasture may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.
10. Livestock should be moved within 3 days of planned rotation dates or when forage utilization objectives have been met. At least 90% of the permitted livestock should be moved by the scheduled date.

11. The District may spot check fences before the entry date to insure fences are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter the Forest if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed.

12. The District, with input from the permittee, will determine the entry date or early removal is needed for resource protection based on existing conditions.

13. No construction activities (ie., heavy machinery operations) or large scale herding of cattle will take place between 03/31 and 08/31 each year.

III. ALLOWABLE USE The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Section I of this Annual Operating Provision. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are exceeded. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when these forage utilization standards are met. To achieve the desired allowable use, it is important to have proper livestock distribution. The **maximum** allowable use is:

Woodland, Chaparral and grasslands - 45%

Riparian areas - 40%

This use will meet northern goshawk guidelines and management conditions of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that pertain to Mexican spotted owl critical habitat requirements.

IV. MITIGATION MEASURES In order to conform to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements for a may affect, not likely to adversely affect critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, the following management conditions will be implemented:

1. Mineral supplement sites in other Mexican spotted owl suitable, capable, and foraging habitats will be regularly rotated to reduce trampling and grazing impacts to vegetation.
2. Monitor forage use to insure forage use does not exceed Maximum use levels.
3. No construction should take place on the allotment between 3/1 and 6/30.

V. LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION AND SALTING

The primary objectives are to obtain uniform distribution and proper utilization of forage over those portions of the allotment that cattle can utilize. Cattle will be moved into normally dry areas where feed is available and water is present.

Salt and protein supplement can be used as a tool to obtain better distribution. Salt will be placed on good feed one-quarter to one-half mile from water. Suggested locations are ridges, knolls, benches, low saddles, or gentle slopes. Blocks should be placed in areas before livestock are moved onto the unit and will be removed when allowable use objectives have been met. Blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, riparian bottoms, or roads

Every time blocks are placed on the allotment they will be put on a different site. Do not use the same area used in previous years. Blocks will be placed on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.

VI. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Replace Improvement # 409003 & 04 - Iron Tank Well Windmill & Storage. Normal maintenance of improvements on your allotment is your responsibility and should be done as needed.

VII. SHORT-AGE CALF POLICY

The short-age calf policy for the Forest was established January 31, 1991, by the Regional Forester in FSM 2238.11a. For seasonal permits, the following defines what will count and be paid for:

All animals six months of age or older at the time of entering the allotment, those animals which will become twelve months of age during the grazing season, and all weaned animals regardless of age.

VIII. PERMIT CONDITIONS

This Annual Operating Provision is a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan.

Failure to comply with 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. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

Toni L. Strauss Date 10-9-09
TONI STRAUSS, District Ranger

Daryl A. Wolfswinkel Date 10/12/09
DARYL A. WOLFSWINKEL, Permittee

Enclosures:

A. Map of key forage monitoring areas.