

File Code: 2210
Date: March 5, 2020

Dear Terry,

This Annual Operating Instruction is a guide for management of the **Cartwright Allotments** for the **2020 grazing year**. This plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your amended 2019 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the **Cartwright Allotment** as per Term Grazing Permit #12228 issued to Schmidt Ranch LLC

| Kind | Number | Class | Season of Use |
|--|--------|------------|---------------|
| Cattle | 350 | Cow / Calf | 1/1-12/31 |
| | * | Yearling | 1/1-5/31 |
| Horse | Horse | Horse | 1/1-12/31 |
| *Yearlings are progeny of above adult cattle and are not a fixed number. | | | |

II. AUTHORIZED USE

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

| Kind | Number | Class | Season of Use |
|--------|--------|------------|---------------|
| Cattle | 350 | Cow / Calf | 3/1-2/28 |
| | 5 | Bulls | 3/1-2/28 |
| Horse | 10 | Horses | 3/1-2/28 |

III. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Actual dates may vary depending upon climatic conditions, wildfire, noxious weeds, soil, and range conditions, conflicts with or for protection of wildlife, water availability, utilization levels and time required to move livestock. Any deviation from this schedule needs to be discussed with Payson range staff prior to moving your cattle outside of the dates listed. Estimates of forage utilization will be performed and documented on pastures about the time the pasture is vacated.



| AUTHORIZED PASTURE | CLASS OF LIVESTOCK | AUTHORIZED NUMBER | AUTHORIZED SEASON OF USE |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| GRAY'S GULCH | COW/CALF BULLS | 350 5 | 12/1/19-3/31/20 |
| HUMBOLT | | | 4/1/20-6/30/20 |
| MAVERICK | | | 7/1/20-9/30/20 |
| BRONCO | | | 10/1/20-12/31/20 |
| QUIEN SABE | | | UTILIZED WHEN NEEDED |

Permittees will make sure enough time is allowed to remove livestock to meet the pasture move date(s) and avoid unauthorized and/or excess use. A one-week buffer is allowed on either side of the move date to get cattle moved. If additional time is needed (due to weather, terrain, etc.) it must be discussed and approved by the Forest Service. At some point during the year the herd will be separated into 2 herds with rotations being Gray's Gulch/Humboldt and Quien Sabe/ Bronco/Maverick. This is a trail rotation and adjustments may be made as conditions warrant.

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

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. Grazing will be managed so that conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term. Considerable research has been done showing that conservative use levels will allow for sustaining and improving watershed conditions. Conservative utilization levels are as follows:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Upland | Herbaceous: | 30-40% of current year's growth |
| | Woody: | 50% of current year's growth |
| Riparian | Herbaceous: | 40% of plant species biomass (any species) and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on Deergrass |
| | Woody: | 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6 feet tall |
| Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (Where Applicable) | 20% optimum to 40% maximum Management Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in the Tonto NF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13). | |

Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season, in key areas¹ for key forage species². However, grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season in order to practice proactive management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. Utilization measurements serve as only one piece of information that is considered when evaluating the effectiveness of allotment management. Utilization data will be coupled with other information such as vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, and long term trends, in order to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

V. MONITORING

Monitoring dates are tentative and some may not be required. Range personnel from the Cave Creek District may contact you prior to monitoring visits. We encourage your participation in these inspections, as it provides an opportune time to discuss resource conditions and management items. VGS Monitoring may be conducted in the fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

The table below indicates the records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit. The permittee must hold ownership of the corporation (if applicable), deed for the base property, and brand associated with that permit for the entire term of the permit. Any undocumented changes in ownership are a violation of the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit under Part 2, Sec. 7.

| | |
|---|---|
| Entity/Person(s) Designated as Permittee | Schmidt Ranch LLC |
| Base Property | Deed Held By: Schmidt Ranch LLC |
| Brand | Owner: Schmidt Ranch LLC #2268 Expires: 2/15/2024 |

We request that you maintain records that reveal the number of livestock, date of entry, and the date of livestock leaving each pasture and submit them to us at the end of the grazing season.

¹ Key areas are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as being ¼ to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing.

² Key forage species are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as plants chosen to be appropriate to monitor average allowable use.

VII. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Salting may be used to aid in livestock distribution and management. Salting must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

The permittee shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the Forest Officer in charge of the allotment.

| CARTWRIGHT ALLOTMENT IMPROVEMENT WORK SCHEDULED: 2020 | | |
|--|---|---|
| IMPROVEMENT TYPE | IMPROVEMENT NAME | WORK PERIOD & NOTES |
| Spring | Mule-Machakatee, Humboldt-Machakatee Spring 1, Gray's Gulch-Magazine Spring and Maggie May Spring | Clean out spring source and replace the associated troughs and storage to working order. |
| Dirt/Stock Tank | Quien Sabe-Roundup, Skunk, Gray's Gulch-Cramm, Butterfly, Cedar Basin, Magazine, Unnamed, Bronco-Bronco, East Bronco, Maverick, CCC, South Deer Flat, North Deer Flat, Humboldt, Barpit, Humboldt-Forked Ridge, Buzzard, Blue Ridge, Starvation Ridge, Blind Point, and Walnut Canyon tank. | Clean out stock tank, repair dams and other breaches, stay on existing routes. |
| Fences | 6L-south border of 6L and Bronco Allotment | |
| New Water Systems | Cartwright Water Project (Ashdale Pipeline, Quien Sabe Pipeline 1, Quien Sabe Pipeline 2, Bronco Pasture Pipeline, Machakatee Spring Pipeline, Maggie Mae Spring Pipeline. | Proceed with project per Design Features specified in Decision memo signed 12/31/2019 by Micah Grondin. |

Maintenance of existing improvements is exempt from additional heritage (archaeological) clearances, however may require a simple biological review before work may proceed. Timing restrictions for project work may also be stipulated based on the type of equipment used to

perform the work. Please provide the Forest Service with advanced notice of any maintenance you wish to perform so there is sufficient time to complete any required reviews.

The following mitigation measures must be followed when cleaning earthen stock tanks:

- Maintenance will be conducted using backhoes with rubber tires or bulldozers no larger than a Caterpillar D7
- Bentonite may be worked into soils of the dirt tanks in order to bind soil for increased tank effectiveness. The Forest Service may have bentonite available upon request. All dirt tank work will be confined within the existing tank basin. No additional ground disturbance will be authorized outside the existing basins, earthen dams or designated travel paths of the equipment to the tanks.
- **Cleaning bar ditches is not authorized.** Bar ditches will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- You may not drop the blade on your equipment until your machine is within the existing tank expect to push an occasional boulder or tree out of your path.
- Confine all activities to existing disturbances from previous construction and existing vehicular travel ways. If the previous access or cat trails are not apparent, contact our office so we may clear a route free of cultural resources. Please leave no evidence of your route to the tank and do not improve the route to the tank. If you are unable to do so, please contact the district.

IX. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit.

X. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity.

XI. PERMIT CONDITIONS

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.

Sincerely,

/s/Chandler Mundy
CHANDLER MUNDY
Acting District Ranger