

File Code: 2210

Date: February 1, 2021

Dear Cartwright Allotment Permittee,

On Friday, December 11th you met with Matt and I to discuss your 2021 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Cartwright Allotment. This AOI is a guide for management of the Cartwright Allotment for the 2021 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 2020 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE/AUTHORIZED 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	3/1 to 2/28
	*	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
Horse	10	Horse	3/1 to 2/28
*Yearlings are the progeny of the above adult cattle and are not a fixed number			

Schmidt Ranch LLC is authorized to run at the following numbers for the 2021 Grazing Year (GY).

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	280	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	97	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
Horse	10	Horse	3/1 to 2/28
*Yearlings are the progeny of the above adult cattle and are not a fixed number			

II. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Below is the discussed rotation that will be approved for GY 2021. Adjustments to pasture rotation, season of use and numbers may vary depending on several factors including, but not limited to, precipitation, water availability and forage conditions. If an adjustment to the rotation is needed and/or management concerns exist, please contact the District Range Staff in advance to arrange an adjustment to the rotation.

At the beginning of the grazing year the herd will be separated into 2 with rotations being Gray's Gulch, Humboldt, and Maverick (north). This is a trial rotation and adjustments may be made as

conditions warrant. This action is to help spread smaller herds out on the landscape during our current droughty conditions to gain more time where water is more permeant.

The desired utilization level for 2021 grazing season is 35% on key species in the key areas and we would like to monitor utilization with you after the livestock leave a pasture.

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Quien Sabe	*350 c/c, 5 Bulls	*January 01 to February 28
6L	140 c/c, 3 Bulls	March 01 to June 30
Humboldt	140 c/c, 2 Bulls	March 01 to June 30
Gray's Gulch	140c/c, 3 Bulls	July 01 to August 30
Maverick (north)	140 c/c, 2 Bulls	July 01 to August 30
Gray's Gulch	280 c/c, 5 Bulls	September 01 to October 31
Maverick	280 c/c, 5 Bulls	November 01 to January 30
Bronco	280 c/c, 5 Bulls	February 01 to February 28

**Reductions to the herd are occurring at permittee's request and may continue to occur given seasonal drought predictions. Reductions are happening because of resource concerns by Cartwright Allotment Management to pre-plan for long-term management actions. All continued management actions will take place with FS Range personnel and need to be approved with reasonable time. Please accurately state numbers to the Range Staff so they can be recorded.*

A one-week buffer is allowed on either side of the move date to get cattle moved. If additional time is needed it must be discussed and approved by the Forest Service.

III. 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 to 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.
	Woody:	50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6' tall.
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's	20% Optimum to 40% Maximum	Management of PAC's for Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in TNF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13).

Utilization will be measured in key areas for key forage species when livestock leave the pasture. 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, drought, 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.

IV. 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 spring and/or fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

V. ADMINISTRATION

The records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit must be maintained. 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.

VI. 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 waters, streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION I 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 Schedule, 2021		
Improvement Type	Improvement Name	Work Period and Notes
Springs	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/Earthen Tanks	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-	Clean out stock tank, repair dams and other breaches, stay on existing routes

	Forked Ridge, Buzzard, Blue Ridge, Starvation Ridge, Blind Point, and Walnut Canyon tank.	
Fences	6L-south border of 6L and Bronco Allotment	Contact Range Staff to coordinate entry from Spur Cross Ranch.
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. Prior to starting Ashdale Pipeline, please contact Range Staff to coordinate with Hydrology on Cave Creek Meter Reading. TNF hydrology would also like to install a transducer in the well when the cap is removed.

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 enough 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 arranged within the existing tank basin. No additional ground disturbances 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 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Micah Grondin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger