



File Code: 2210 /2230

Date: April 6, 2021

Dear Copper Creek Allotment Permittee,

On Thursday, March 25th, you met with Matt and I to discuss your 2021 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Copper Creek Allotment. This AOI is a guide for management of the Copper Creek 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 2020 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE/AUTHORIZED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the Copper Creek Allotment as per Term Grazing Permit #12247 issued to (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	500	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	250*	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
*Yearlings are the progeny of the above adult cattle and are not a fixed number			

You are authorized to run at the following numbers for the 2021 Grazing Year (GY).

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	300	Cow/Calf	8/1 to 11/30
	15	Bulls	8/1 to 11/30

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 two weeks in advance to arrange an adjustment to the rotation.

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 or at the end of the grazing season. Riparian utilization can be conducted at any time to ensure that utilization standards are being met and achieved.



<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Perry Mesa	300 Cow/Calf, 15 Bulls	August 1 to September 10
Brooklyn	300 Cow/Calf, 15 Bulls	September 11 to September 30
Cornstalk	300 Cow/Calf, 15 Bulls	October 1 to October 31
Bob Cat	300 Cow/Calf, 15 Bulls	November 1 to November 30

**Reductions to the herd may occur at permittee's request given seasonal drought predictions. Reductions are happening across the district because of resource concerns 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.
Streambanks		Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
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 or at the end of the growing season. Utilization measurements serve as only one piece of information that is considered when evaluating the effectiveness of allotment management.

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/mineral may be used to aid in livestock distribution and management. Salting/mineral must be located no closer than ¼ mile from waters, streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites. Please select locations on previously disturbed areas where forage is abundant and utilization levels are less than average.

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	Copper Spring Shirttail Spring	Clean spring source and replace the associated troughs and storage as needed to working order. These springs are approved for maintenance.
Dirt/Earthen Tanks	NA	NA
Fences	Reconstruction of 2 miles of fence (2180) between fence 1535 and 1715. Reconstruction of 3 miles of fence (2180) between 1897 and ending at road FS611.	See map provided in 2020 AOI letter Let Range Staff know when it is completed for Permit modification
New Water Systems	New water developments labeled WD 1-13 in Copper Creek EA	Follow design as stated in the AMP/EA that was signed and approved in 2018. Work with Matt on permit modification and completion of supplies he is buying with RBRB funds

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.

By this letter, I also authorize you, or people working for you, to cut, use or remove any trees needed for fence posts and stays for maintenance of structural range improvements within the Copper Creek Allotment. A copy of this letter must be in possession with you/they while engaged in any tree cutting.

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,



MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger