

File Code: 2210
Date: June 10, 2022

2022 Annual Operating Instructions

Copper Creek

This AOI is a guide for management for the 2022 grazing year. The pasture rotation and numbers discussed are as follows:

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
*Perry Mesa	375 C/C, 18 Bulls	June 10 to July 25
Brooklyn	375 C/C, 18 Bulls	July 26 to August 31
Cornstalk	375 C/C, 18 Bulls	September 1 to September 30
*Bobcat	375 C/C, 18 Bulls	October 1 to October 31

**The move into Perry Mesa Pasture will take place over a couple of weeks starting June 10. Depending on precipitation and monsoonal outlook, Bobcat Pasture may be swapped out with Granit Mesa Pasture. Please notify the Range Staff two weeks prior to the move date if change is needed.*

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

Management

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines applicable to Copper Creek livestock grazing will be followed (Forest Plan, p. 24).

- Salt and/or supplements will be placed where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low. Salt and/or supplements will not be placed any closer than one quarter mile from available water, recreation sites, or designated trails except where prior written approval had been obtained from the District Ranger. No salting will occur within or adjacent to identified heritage sites. Salt will be removed from pastures when cattle have left an area, and not placed within a pasture until the cattle arrive. Additionally, salt will not be placed in the same location(s) each year.
- Troughs will be left full of water and operational year round for wildlife accessibility, unless in limited circumstances where extreme freezing conditions may damage facilities.
- When entering the next scheduled pasture, all livestock will be removed from the previous pasture within two weeks (dependent on terrain), and will ensure that enough time is allowed to remove livestock to meet the pasture move date(s).

- You will ensure all infrastructure is in functioning condition prior to entering the next scheduled pasture.

Forage utilization will be managed at a level corresponding to light to moderate intensity in order to provide for grazed plant recovery, increases in herbage production and retention of herbaceous litter to protect soils. Copper Creeks Utilization is as follows according to the 2017 AMP.

FORAGE TYPE	USE LEVELS
UPLANDS	30% to 40% on primary forage species.
RIPARIAN TREES	Limited to 50% of terminal leader (top 1/3 of plant) on palatable tree species accessible to livestock (<6 feet tall).
RIPARIAN GRASSES and GRASS LIKE SPECIES	Deergrass- Limit use to 40% of plant species biomass. Emergent species (rushes, sedges, cattails, horsetail)- Maintain a 6-8 inch stubble height during grazing period.

- If use levels are reached before schedule move dates, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture. If all pastures have been utilized before the end of the grazing season livestock will be removed from the allotment until the start of the next growing season.

You are encouraged to participate in all monitoring activities. Please keep records of actual use and movement dates to provide to the district range staff at the annual authorization meeting each year.

Improvements

You shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. You must receive District approval prior to bringing heavy equipment onto the Forest. Any maintenance or reconstruction will be confined within original site disturbance and construction design.

The following list are **new projects** approved for construction during the 2022 grazing season.

- New water developments (WD 1-13 in Copper Creek EA) may be installed once a permit modification including construction specifications is signed. Work with Matt Kilford on those details before work is initiated.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management (FSH 2209.13, Ch.90; PR Vol. 2 #4) is a tool that uses documented results of management actions to continually modify management in order to achieve specific objectives. If monitoring indicates that desired conditions are not being achieved, adaptive management decisions will be used to modify management. Adaptive management would be implemented through annual operating instructions, which would adjust livestock numbers and the timing of grazing so that use is consistent with current productivity and is meeting management objectives.

Adaptive management also includes monitoring to determine whether identified structural improvements are necessary or need to be modified. Structural range improvements will be constructed in accordance with 2017 EA and meet Forest Service Standards. Approval to construct new range improvements will be documented in a permit modification before construction may begin.