

File Code: 2210
Date: January 26, 2021

Dear Cross F and Diamond Allotment Permittees,

On Wednesday, January 13th you met with Matt and I to discuss your 2021 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Cross F and Diamond Allotments. This AOI is a guide for management 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 Cross F and Diamond Allotments as per Term Grazing Permit # 12179 issued to Cross F Cattle Company LLC.

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	375	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	146	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			

Due to resource concerns from the current drought conditions, and lingering effects of the Bush Fire. You have elected to run at a reduced capacity to provide adequate rest to burned area, relieve stress from whole her capacity and split herd into small groups to buy time in available pastures.

Your 2021 authorized use is as follows:

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	231	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
Cattle	24	Bulls	3/1 to 2/28

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. 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>
<i>Cross F Allotment</i>	<i>*130 c/c, 14 Bulls</i>	<i>*March 01 to February 28</i>
Alder Creek	70 c/c,	March 01 to July 31
Cottonwood	20 c/c,	March 01 to July 31
Mazatzal	40c/c, 14 Bulls	March 01 to July 31
Sheep Creek	130 c/c, 14 Bulls	August 01 to November 30
Kitty Joe	130 c/c, 14 Bulls	December 01 to February 28
<i>Diamond Allotment</i>	<i>*101 c/c, 10 Bulls</i>	<i>*March 01 to February 28</i>
Kitty Joe Riparian	43 c/c, 10 Bulls	March 01 to April 15
Diamond	101 c/c, 10 Bulls	April 16 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 Allotment Management/permittee 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 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.

At the beginning of the grazing year the herd will be separated into several groups with rotations throughout. This is a trail 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. Diamond's Herd will be split into several smaller groups and kept at varying places across Diamond Pasture (e.g. Lynn Spring 20 c/c, Indian Peak 43 c/c, etc..).

Continued monitoring, water availability, and forage conditions will be assessed over the next several months leading into the seasonal monsoon timeframe. A second AOI meeting may be needed to adjust management concerns for precipitation. Continuous conversations will occur in that timeframe.

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 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 Mesa 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.

Please Submit a new updated Brand Certificate to District Range Staff to he may update your permit. Please complete this by June of 2021.

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		
Dirt/Earthen Tanks	Brunson, Sparks	Clean out when dry and remain in the existing footprint.
Fences	Bush Burn Area	Repair, Replace, Fix and Maintain as needed within footprint of fire
New Water Systems	Bush Burn Area	Repair, Replace, Fix and Maintain as needed within footprint of fire

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,

MATTHEW LANE
District Ranger