

**Date:** January 31, 2022

Cross F and Diamond Allotments

Dear Permittee,

On Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> you met with Matt to discuss your 2022 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Cross F and Diamond Allotments. This AOI is a guide for management for the 2022 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 2021 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.

<b>Kind</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
Cattle		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 recent concerns from the drought and lingering effects of the very large Bush Fire. You have elected to run at a reduced capacity to provide adequate rest, relieve stress and bargain time in available pastures.

Your 2022 authorized use is as follows:

<b>Kind</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
Cattle	265	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
Cattle	28	Bulls	3/1 to 2/28
*Horse	7	Horse	3/1 to 2/28
*Horses will move around the allotments as needed throughout the 2022 GY			

II. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Below is the discussed rotation that will be approved for GY 2022. 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 2022 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, 13 Bulls</i>	<i>*March 01 to February 28</i>
Sheep Creek	130 c/c, 13 Bulls	March 01 to June 30
Mazatzal	130 c/c, 13 Bulls	July 01 to October 31
Cottonwood/Kitty Joe	130 c/c, 13 Bulls	November 01 to January 15
Alder Creek	130 c/c, 13 Bulls	January 16 to February 28
<i>Diamond Allotment</i>	<i>*135 c/c, 15 Bulls</i>	<i>*March 01 to February 28</i>
Kitty Joe East	135 c/c, 15 Bulls	March 01 to May 31
Diamond	135 c/c, 15 Bulls	June 01 to October 31
Sycamore	135 c/c, 15 Bulls	November 01 to February 28

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.

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 discussions will occur in that timeframe.

### III. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

Utilization 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:

<b>Upland</b>	<b>Herbaceous:</b>	30 to 40% of current year's growth.
	<b>Woody:</b>	50% of current year's growth.
<b>Riparian</b>	<b>Herbaceous:</b>	40% of plant species biomass (any species) and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height.
	<b>Woody:</b>	50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6' tall.
<b>Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's</b>	<b>20% Optimum to 40% Maximum</b>	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).
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**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.

**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.

The following list is approved for the 2022 grazing season:

<b>Cross F and Diamond Allotment Improvement Work Schedule, 2021</b>		
<b>Improvement Type</b>	<b>Improvement Name</b>	<b>Work Period and Notes</b>
Springs		
Dirt/Earthen Tanks	Brunson, Sparks	Clean out when dry and remain in existing footprint
Fences	Bush Burn Area	Repair, Replace, Fix and Maintain as needed within footprint of fire
Gates	Within Allotment Boundaries	Repair, Replace, Fix gates destroyed by public as needed within the footprint of the allotment.
New Water Systems	Bush Burn Area	Repair, Replace, Fix and Maintain as needed within footprint of fire

The following projects are awaiting approval. Please do not start work on the following projects until approval has been granted.

- Alder Creek Corral Water Systems conversion to Solar (heritage clearance for pole).
- Road Maintenance on 524, 1451, 1452 (Road Maintenance Permit).

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