



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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Roosevelt, AZ 85545  
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File Code: 2210

Date: January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020

**(b) (6)**

Dear **(b) (6)**

The following are your 2020 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the H4 grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan, and available information describing range conditions.

**Authorized Use**

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Cottonwood	January 1 <sup>st</sup> May 31 <sup>st</sup>	May 29 <sup>th</sup>	125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses 20 yearlings	
Cane Springs	June 1 <sup>st</sup> September 31 <sup>st</sup>	September 25 <sup>th</sup>	125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses	
Upper Slate Creek	October 1 <sup>st</sup> December 31 <sup>st</sup>	December 30 <sup>th</sup>	125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses	
Lower Slate Creek	January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021 Next AOI	TBD	125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses	

**Monitoring:**

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor,



soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.

Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

**Vegetative Use Guidelines:**

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Use Threshold</b>
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks (if applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum
Annual Grasses	50% of current year's growth

**Range Improvement Maintenance:**

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2020 proposed range improvement projects.

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Clearances Needed</b>
Cottonwood	Cottonwood Well	Convert to a solar pump	Clearances are complete
Upper Slate Creek	West end pasture next to highway 87	Add a 15,000 gallon storage tank and pipeline to an	Work with District on finalizing improvement.

		existing water system that could be filled from hauling water to support existing water system	
Cane Springs	Gold Tooth Smitty	Add storage tank, pipeline and water troughs	Project has been approved

**Salting:**

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

**Supplements and Attractants**

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

**Supplemental Feeding:**

No supplemental feeding is authorized.

**Weeds**

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hoskins, Range Management Specialist, at (602) 225-5332.

Sincerely,

KELLY L. JARDINE  
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins  
Ina Yazzie

LIVESTOCK GRAZING PERMIT - MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS	ALLOTMENT	H4 - Walnut
	PERMITTEE	(b) (6)

(b) (6) has requested a livestock rotation modification for the 2020 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI), as stated below.

**SECTION A: AOI LIVESTOCK ROTATION MODIFICATION**

Livestock Management Schedule:

a. Provide all pasture modifications, through 02/28/21. Only insert permitted numbers or less. Any request for increased numbers, contact your district office.

Pasture	Date In	Date Out	Numbers
Haystack on the Walnut Allotment	November 21 <sup>st</sup>	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	24 Cows 1 Bull

b. Provide explanation for reason modification above is requested:

Due to the Bush fire that has impacted most of the H4 allotment. Some of the livestock will be authorized to graze on the Walnut Allotment in the Haystack Pasture. Good annual forage production along with additional water development has created additional capacity than is currently being run on the Walnut Allotment which is still running under permitted numbers even with this addition. Current inspections show good management and proper stocking conditions on the Walnut Allotment that would be consistent with this small increase even with the current drought.

**SECTION A: AOI LIVESTOCK ROTATION MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATION**

To be completed by Forest Official:

- a.  Approved
- b.  Approved with conditions as stipulated:
- c.  Not approved with explanation:

Walnut Allotment Permittee has been consulted and agrees with this AOI modification:

(b) (6)      O-C Ranch      11/19/2020

Walnut Permittee: (b) (6)

11/20/2020

Forest Official

Date