



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 23th 2020

(b) (6)

Schoolhouse Allotment

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2020 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Schoolhouse 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 Dates	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Schoolhouse	January 1 st May 16 th	March 6 th April 15 th May 15 th	85 Cows 5 Bulls 20 Yearlings	Majority of pasture did not burn. With above average precipitation and strong annual growth this pasture will be used until utilization approaches use limits.
House	April 1 st May 16 th	April 15 th May 15 th	85 Cows 5 Bulls 20 Yearlings	May be used in conjunction with Schoolhouse Pasture. Water may be limited and used to direct livestock use in unburned areas.
Lake	May 17 th September 5 th	August 14 th September 4 th	85 Cows 5 Bulls	
Center	September 5 th November 14 th	October 16 th November 13 th	85 Cows 5 Bulls	
Monument	November 15 th January 15 th 2020	December 18 th January 15 th	85 Cows 5 Bulls	
Bull, Horse	Throughout year	Throughout year	10 Horses	Horses will be used on and off during the grazing season for management of the cattle.



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.

Vegetation	Use Threshold
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 authorized range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Multiple	Pipeline on Water System	Replace burned pipeline with a new pipeline	None
Multiple	Two Bar Road Tank, Pinion Tank, Muhly Basin Tank 2, Top Tank, Blue Ridge Tank, Two Bar Ranch Tank, Old Road Tank, and Highway Tank.	Clean out existing stock tanks within the prism of the original construction and add Bentonite to hold water.	Access has been verified by F.S. personnel. Prior to cleaning tanks let F.S. know.
Multiple	Fences	Replace burned fences with a new fences	None

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, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (602) 225-5332.

Sincerely,



KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Ina Yazzie