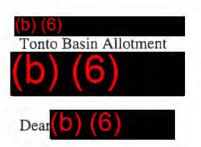
United States USDA Department of Agriculture

Forest Service **Tonto Basin** Ranger District

28079 N HWY 188 Roosevelt, AZ 85545 Phone: 928.467.3200 Fax: 928.467.3239

File Code: 2210 Date: January 5th 2015

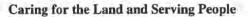


The following are your 2015 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Tonto Basin grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, 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 | Monitoring Date | Authorized Livestock | Rationale/Comments |
|---------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Mesquite Flat | Until February 28 th | February 27 th | 86 Cows 4 Bulls 20 Yearlings | |
| Kayler | March 1 st May 15 th | May 15 th | 86 Cows 4 Bulls 20 Yearlings | |
| Malone | May 15 th June 15 th | June 19 th | 86 Cows 4 Bulls 20 Yearlings | If keeping any heifers past May 31 st call office to issue an additional bill. |
| Lambing | June 15 th September 30 th | October 2 nd | 86 Cows 4 Bulls | |
| Paigewire | October 1 st December 30 th | January 8 th | 86 Cows 4 Bulls | |
| Mount Ord | December 30 th Next AOI | TBD | 86 Cows 4 Bulls | |





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.

| Pasture | Location | Description of Work | Clearances Needed |
|-------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Pagewire | Boundary Fence | Build boundary Fence to separate the Pagewire Pasture | Archeological and Biological and DM |
| Long Mesa Pasture | Corral | Build corral to replace the one lost to TRCU creation | Archeological, Biological and DM |
| Multiple | Four Corners | Create watering/holding area where four pastures meet | Archeological, Biological and DM |
| Mount Ord | Reno Spring | Extend Pipeline and add two additional Troughs | Archeological, Biological and DM |
| Malone | Pasture Fence | Extend Pasture Fence to take in odd corner next to the Walnut Allotment. | Archeological, Biological and DM |

The following table describes 2015 authorized range improvement projects.

Salting:

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¹/₄ 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 (928) 467-3236.

Sincerely

KELLY L. JARDINE District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins Ina Yazzie