



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 23rd 2020

(b) (6)
Tonto Basin Allotment
(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2020 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 | Tentative Monitoring Date | Authorized Livestock | Rationale/Comments |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| Sycamore | December 15 th March 1 st | March 6 th | 125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 84 Yearlings | |
| Park Creek/Reno | March 1 st May 15 st | May 15 th | 125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 84 Yearlings | |
| Long Mesa | May 15 st July 31 st | July 31 st | 125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls 84 Yearlings | Yearlings removed by May 31 st |
| Pagewire | July 31 st September 30 th | September 25 th | 125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls | |
| Lambing | September 30 th January 15 th | TBD | 125 Cow/calf 4 Bulls | |
| Kayler | Next AOI | | 125 Cow/calf 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.

The following table describes 2020 proposed range improvement projects.

| Pasture | Location | Description of Work | Clearances Needed |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Pagewire | Juniper Camp Spring | Construction of new pipeline, Storage Tank and expand corral | Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work. |
| Kayler | Hackberry Spring WS | Add a pipeline from existing pipe to new trough near Horse Canyon | Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work. |
| Kayler | Chinaberry WS | Add a storage to an existing pipe line and move existing trough | Archeological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work. |
| Multiple | Quartz Ledge Tank, Unnamed Tanks, Malone Tank, Trap Tank | Clean out tanks and add bentonite | Contact district prior to working on any tanks. |
| Quartz Ledge and Kayler | Pasture Division Fence | Construct small holding pasture or corral | Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work |
| Sycamore and Mesquite | Nook Spring | Add a storage tank and four troughs to new water system | Archeological and Biological Clearance Needed prior to beginning work |

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.