

Rotation Schedule

The authorized number and planned schedule of pasture use on the Agua Verde Allotment For the 2023 grazing season are as follows:

Allotment and Pasture Names	Number	Class	Date of Use	Utilization Standards
Hidden Springs	100	c/c	9/1/2023-10/31/2023	45%
TBD**	100	c/c	11/1/2023-2/28/2023	45%
Upper, Charlie's	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest

***Cattle will be held with waters from the base property. Pasture fences are still being repaired from previous fire damage, with the Upper pasture fence being the first priority.**

****Cattle movement after 10/31/2023 will be determined by Range Staff and permittee based upon range conditions and production.**

Pasture move dates shown above are an estimate and may need to be changed based on actual range conditions. It is your responsibility to monitor actual conditions closely and notify the Range Staff in charge promptly if it appears that livestock will need to be moved earlier or later than the dates listed above.

Actual pasture moves will be based on monitoring and utilization standards shown above. Cattle will be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the Forest when proper use has been reached. Contact the Forest Officer immediately following each pasture move. Grazed pastures must be kept clean of livestock following each move.

To facilitate livestock moves, gates may be opened one week prior to the scheduled move date when moving into an adjacent pasture. **Gates must be closed and the grazed pasture cleaned of all livestock no later than one week following the scheduled move date.**

ALL permitted livestock will be removed from the allotment by the off-date, unless authorized otherwise in advance by the Forest Officer. Livestock remaining on the allotment after the off-date will be considered Excess Use and appropriate administrative action will be taken. **Contact the Forest Officer immediately of any problems.**

Monitoring and Utilization Criteria

Management and utilization criteria designed to protect and/or enhance valuable range and riparian resources are according to the 2009 Last Chance, Barney, Fresno, Happy Valley, Cumero, Rock Pile, Agua Verde and Rincon Allotments Environmental Assessment and are incorporated as special terms and conditions within the permit.

Allowable use of forage is based on the amount and kind of forage on the allotment, plant needs, range condition, trend, and grazing management strategy. Duration, frequency, and timing may be manipulated within the grazing schedule to meet allowable use standards.

The allowable use levels for this allotment are established for key areas and key species by pasture for the time period livestock are in a pasture. The use on key species in key areas may determine the length of the grazing period in the pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21.

For simplicity, key areas are generally considered as follows: 1) full capacity rangeland located on ridgetops/mesas within a 1/4 mile from available water sources; 2) canyon bottoms/riparian areas with free flowing water or springs regardless of distance from water; 3) any area containing full capacity range with erosive soils and insufficient/marginal ground cover to protect the soil; or 4) areas containing habitat, whether occupied, suitable and unoccupied, or potentially suitable habitat, for threatened, endangered, or proposed species that are of concern to the Forest Service.

Permittees will be responsible for monitoring utilization throughout the grazing season. The Forest staff will conduct spot checks during the grazing season to ensure utilization standards are being met. Spot checks may occur in key and non-key areas.

Permittees will be routinely invited to participate in regular monitoring trips throughout the grazing season to conduct both annual and long-term monitoring. If the permittee cannot participate, monitoring data will be gathered by the forest staff and shared with the permittee at a later date. Permittees are encouraged to conduct their own monitoring and submit their data to the forest staff.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Grazing fees must be paid prior to March 1, 2023.
2. Sub-leasing is prohibited. Livestock placed on the allotment must be owned by the permittee and branded with the permittee's registered brand. A copy of the brand certificate must be on file at the District Office.
3. The permittee will record actual use as it occurs including livestock numbers and dates permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual operating instruction meeting.
4. Any change or deviation from this Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the District. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, the permittee will notify the District as soon as practical.
5. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.
6. Livestock should be moved when forage utilization objectives have been met or within 1 week of planned rotation dates, unless changes have been confirmed with District Range personnel.
7. The District may spot check range improvements before the entry date to ensure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter

pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed.

Range Improvements

Range improvement maintenance responsibilities are assigned in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. All fences that will have livestock against them at turn-out must be maintained to standards prior to livestock entering the allotment. Materials for routine improvement maintenance will be furnished by the permittee. All ground disturbing activities require cultural resource and sensitive species inventory and consultation prior to project implementation.

Livestock Distribution

Salting and riding are important tools in achieving proper utilization throughout the allotment and should be used to control livestock distribution. Salt should be placed in several locations, with salt grounds changed periodically. Salt must be placed as far from water as possible (no less than ¼-mile from water) unless explicitly directed by the forest staff. No more than two blocks of salt should be placed at any single location, preferably off the ground on a rock, log or other suitable surface. Riding should be used as a tool to disperse livestock at turn-out and to keep livestock well distributed throughout the grazing season.

Records and Reports

A herd movement record and expense record is enclosed for you to keep track of your actual livestock numbers, move dates, and expenses. **These records must be completed during the season and returned to this office by February 1, 2024.** The information is compiled as a permanent record of actual grazing use for each allotment on the District and entered into our national database. Therefore, it is imperative that you complete these forms thoroughly and return them.

Any animals that die within ¼ of a mile from any water source must be disposed of. Disposal will comply with all local and state regulations. Any livestock losses should be reported on your herd movement record.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these operating instructions, please contact Chrissy Pearson at 520-749-7706. Thank you for your cooperation.