

2022
Annual Operating Instructions
Antelope Hills Allotment

This document serves as your Grazing Year, Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Antelope Hills Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual stocking level (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking level is based on current and expected forage production. The planned use period in a pasture and livestock numbers can/should be adjusted if conditions change, either (shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability but not in excess of the permitted numbers and utilization in key areas).

*Any changes from this Annual Operating Instruction is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance and will be made only with prior written Forest Service Officer Approval. (An Amendment)

*If emergency conditions require making an immediate change, notify the Forest Service Officer promptly.

Authorization

Upon payment of fees, the following is the planned grazing sequence:

Number of Livestock	Pasture	Grazing Period
100 cattle	Antelope Hills	10/1 -12/14
100 cattle	Bakers Pass (Alley)	12/16 – 1/15
100 cattle	Mesas	1/15 - 2/28/2023
Tailing through Bakers Holding pasture to access other grazing areas or Bakers Pass tank, is not allowed.		
IU Bar Brand only	No Lazy JP branded and owned by Jerry Vojnic livestock are authorized.	
Jerry Vojnic does not have any association with this permit and will not be communicated with pertaining to anything regarding this Term Grazing Permit.		

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures
 Pocket

Permittee will have livestock at Bakers Pass Tank between October 1-5 for counting onto allotment depending on availability of Brand Inspection. If not all livestock are moved onto the allotment on this day, coordinate with FS officer to schedule a day, a minimum of one-week advance notice is required.

Cattle may be brought into Bakers Pass water lot the day prior. If more time is needed make arrangements with Range Management Specialist.

No livestock grazing of the Verde River corridor:

1. Per Notice of Noncompliance issued February 24, 2022, any time you are aware that livestock associated with your permit, or other livestock have gained access to the Verde River corridor on the Antelope Hills allotment, you shall:
 - a. Within 24 hours, alert your permit administrator, providing the location, approximate number of livestock, the timeline for removal, followed by confirmation of completed removal of unauthorized livestock.
 - b. Within 48 hours of completing repairs, provide photographic documentation of any repairs you made to prevent continued unauthorized access to federal lands, providing enough imagery to illustrate these repairs are done to Forest Service standards.
2. If the Forest Service detects livestock in any excluded riparian areas, the following process will be followed.
 - a. If livestock are detected in the Verde River corridor on the allotment, the Forest Service will make reasonable efforts, within 48 hours, to notify you.
 - b. Livestock must be removed within 72 hours after being notified.
 - c. Permittee will notify the Forest service when livestock have been removed.
3. If the Forest Service detects damage to fencing during monitoring the Forest Service, notify you of the location and extend or repair needed, and timeframe.
 - a. Minor repairs (e.g., busted wire, closing gate) will be accomplished as soon as practicable if actively grazing or as soon as possible, prior to any grazing in the pasture. Repairs requiring additional work (e.g., new wire and post to patch hole, removal of fallen trees) will be completed within 14 days, to the extent reasonable and feasible.
 - b. The Forest Service will work with permittees to continue to identify areas where livestock may be incidentally accessing closed or excluded riparian areas through gaps in natural barriers and remedy those situations.

RESOURCE MONITORING

Allowable Use

The following is maximum allowable use: Uplands: *On key grass species*: 40% at the time livestock are moved from the pasture (area). On soils of sandstone parent material (see attached map), forage utilization will not exceed 30% in key areas on key forage species at the time livestock are removed from the pasture/grazing area. *On key shrub species*: browsing of 40% of available leaders.

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, no matter what the dates on paper are. Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.

The permittee is encouraged to participate in the allotment Monitoring process

Actual Use

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the grazing year: 1) Pasture; 2) Actual Grazing Period; 3) Actual Livestock Numbers.

***It is very important that this Actual Use form be completed and submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the grazing year.**

RESOURCE OBJECTIVES for THIS GRAZING SEASON

Proper livestock management practices, e.g. distribution, timing of grazing, and intensity of grazing, must be managed closely to provide for plant maintenance, improved vigor, and maintenance/improvement of vegetative ground cover. When cattle are not in a pasture/grazing area, ensure water is available for wildlife and escape ramps are in place on troughs.

Bakers Pass (alley),

Antelope Hills, McDaniel Water lot will be closed to discourage livestock grazing in that area. No trailing through the holding pasture while using this unit. Salting will be done as directed in recent years to promote use of south portion, moving as necessary to reduce overuse of areas. Permittee will notify District Ranger when temporary water haul being used.

Mesa Grazing Unit, Cress Spring is the only authorized water source for this unit. All barriers to the Verde River will be checked on a biweekly schedule while in this pasture. Report any unauthorized livestock in Verde River corridor per instructions above.

SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; (See AMP and Term Grazing Permit for the complete list of the guidelines.) Place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements. Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified in part 3 of the Term Grazing Permit. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest may replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life if properly maintained; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning.

Maintenance:

The following items need to be completed by November 30, 2022

Bakers (permittee states this work is done, waiting for verification by FS personnel)

- *The north ¼ of the east side of water lot not maintained per AOI (heavy maintenance)*
 - *3 H-braces failing*
 - *Stays may need to be added*
- *Old wire laying on ground needs to be removed.*

Mesa -

- *Repair #100025 a section of fence along the West Mesa above Verde River. See Report from November 2019, a few t-posts and post pounder on site @ 34.834646N 112.052343W*
- *Clean up and remove all old wire and materials.*

Packard

- *Water development and water lot*
 - *Power line post needs to be determined of its future role in this water lot or removed.*
 - *Plans need to be developed for permanent fix and location of drinkers.*
 - *Securely install wildlife escape ramps in drinkers.*

Southern boundary Verde River

The following will be discussed during readiness inspection for GY23 in Jan-Feb

- *Boundary fence @ water gap closed, but not connected to existing t-posts.*
- *Water gap that was constructed on improper line needs to be removed and hauled away.*
- *Wire still wrapped around live trees without enough stays to protect the tree.*
- *Southern boundary fence was moved closer to river. Does not have proper H-braces or stays entire length.*
- *Line post broken and needs to be replaced to keep wire at proper height. All old wire not being used must be removed from Forest.*

Complete items below by February 28, 2023

Roll up and remove all old wire along east boundary of Bakers Pass pasture from Bakers Pass tank to Mormon Pocket tank

New Projects- will require Permit Modifications in advance of any work

- Permanent Water Haul
- Bentonite Packard Trail tank
- Vegetation management – Hand cutting junipers

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

To aid in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed our area currently in Do Abnormally Dry category. After the last 4 years, drought recovery is forefront in our minds, and authorized stocking rates are intentionally light for resource stabilization.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

PERMIT CONDITIONS

Trailing to/from base property to/from Antelope Hills Allotment may be allowed upon request under the following circumstances:

Request is made to Forest officer at least two full weeks prior to move. Provide specific date of trailing.

Notify Forest Officer if move is cancelled.

Trailing through a pasture on the Horseshoe Allotment while it is being grazed will only be approved with prior coordination of that permittee, and approval of the Forest Officer.

Approval of trailing will be through an AOI amendment.

Failure to comply may result in cancellation of crossing privilege.

*If emergency conditions require making an immediate change, notify the Forest Service Officer promptly.

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit).

ACKNOWLEDGED: _____

Permittee

Date

APPROVED BY: _____

Sarah Clawson, District Ranger

09/27/2022

Date

