

**NOGALES RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Apache Springs Allotment
2024 Grazing Year**

I. PERMITTED USE: The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the Apache Springs Allotment as per Term Grazing Permit #50267.

KIND	CLASS	TERM PERMIT		PERMITTED PERIOD OF USE
		Numbers	AUMs	
Cattle	Cow/Calf	140	1,680	03/01 – 02/28
	Yearlings			
	Bulls			
	Total	140	1,680	03/01 – 02/28

II. AUTHORIZED USE: Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, potential fires, when utilization levels are reached, and time required to move cattle. The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Apache Springs Allotment:

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUMs	PROPOSED SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	178	1,194	03/01-02/28
	Cow/Calf			03/01-02/28
	Cow/Calf			03/01-02/28
	Bulls			03/01-02/28
Horses	Mature			
	Total	178	1,194	03/01-02/28

III. ROTATION SCHEDULE: Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached, and time required to remove cattle. It is understood that it may take 3 to 4 weeks to completely gather all cattle out of the larger pastures.

Pasture	Proposed Numbers	Proposed Season of Use	Use Standard
3 and 6	178	03/01/2024-06/01/2024	45%
2 and 8	89	10/15/2024-12/05/2024	45%
2, 6 and 8	178	12/05/2024-02/28/2025	45%

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

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.

Key areas may be further defined on a map or land description, which may be attached to this Annual Operating Instruction.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. Grazing fees must be paid prior to March 1, 2024.
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.

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Salt or mineral block will not be placed within 200 feet of a road or within a quarter mile of water or drainage bottom. Blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, or roads. Blocks should be placed on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.

VII. MONITORING

Monitoring and evaluation are an essential aspect of good rangeland management. Monitoring and evaluation can be described as the gathering of information, so the manager knows what is happening to rangeland resources and why. The intent of monitoring and evaluation is to test the success of the management strategy and if needed, make adjustments.

Besides participating with the District in collecting monitoring data the permittee is encouraged to also collect monitoring information on their own. If you would like to collect your own data, the District can provide the necessary equipment and training to assist with this effort. Common implementation monitoring includes forage production, forage utilization, photo points, condition of improvements, actual use, and precipitation data.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

New range improvements and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated until proper archeological clearances have been obtained. When improvements are completed, the permittee will inform District Range personnel to schedule an inspection. Before using machinery to clean any pond, the permittee is required to give the District Office at least 30 days advance notice so that the tank can be inspected for threatened or endangered species. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval by the District Ranger. Improvement schedule is dependent upon funding.

Current Year Improvement Schedule			YEAR	2024
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
			Routine Maintenance	
Improvement Accomplishments			YEAR	2023
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
			Routine Maintenance	

IX. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents, and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only.

X. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity. The permittee will be notified and invited to participate with inspections.

XI. PERMIT CONDITIONS

This Annual Operating Instruction is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan.

Failure to comply with 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. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

Management direction and guidelines apply as specified in the 09/2021 Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion for on-going livestock grazing on the Coronado National Forest.

XII. ROADS

Vehicular access on established roads can be essential for structural range improvement maintenance, supplement placement and general ranch duties. Any open road to the public (road on Motor Vehicle Use Map- MVUM) may be used at any time for any reason. The use of other established roads must be authorized within the Term Grazing Permit or in the Annual Operating Instructions. Cross country may be authorized by written permission from the District Ranger. Vehicular access is authorized on the following Forest Service inventoried roads not on the MVUM:

Road Number (From TAP Maps)	Reason for Use	Comments (i.e., Use Standard, special concerns or instructions)
		As of right now allotment will not be affected by road closures.

XIII. Non-Use

A non-use of 486 AUMs on this allotment for resource protection, however, could be used later determined by other allotment conditions.


PERMITTEE

1/30/24
DATE


Acting DISTRICT RANGER

01-30-24
DATE