

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**Big Bend Allotment
2021 Grazing Year**

This will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2021** grazing season for the **Big Bend** Allotment.

I. AUTHORIZED USE/ROTATION SCHEDULE: The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

Authorized Use											
Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs	
Big Bend	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61		388	10			802	798	
Big Bend	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120		388	10			1578	1570	
Total									2380	2368	
Non-Use											
Reason: N/A									0	0	
Proposed Rotation											
Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Big East		3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	388		10			802	798
Off Forest		5/1/2021	10/31/2021								
Hunsaker/Packsaddle		11/1/2021	11/30/2021	30	388		10			395	393
Big East		12/1/2021	2/28/2022	90	388		10			1184	1178
									Applied For	2,380	2368
									Permitted	2380	2380

This rotation schedule is dependent on climatic conditions and the availability of water. If favorable climatic conditions do not occur a change in rotation will be discussed with Douglas Range personnel and may be adjusted following the summer rains.

Due to the on-going severe drought we are all currently experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management on your allotment may be needed. Please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan and keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that may affect your allotment.

Term Grazing Permits are required to be stocked to 90% of capacity each grazing season, unless either Personal Convenience or Range Improvement Non-Use has been approved. Personal Convenience Non-Use may be taken for no more than 3 years consecutively and not more than 4 years out of any ten year period.

Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached and time required to remove cattle.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify the district office in advance. 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.

II. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS:

Utilization in all pastures is not to exceed 45% in the key areas. Please refer to your key area map. Herding and salting will be used to ensure allowable use is not exceeded. If allowable use is in danger of being exceeded, the cattle should be removed from that pasture until the range recovers. Salt and supplement will be placed appropriately, on good feed, at least ¼ mile from water and out of livestock concentration areas and more than 200 feet from roads. Salt and supplement locations should be rotated so as not to degrade a particular site. Salt 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.

III. MONITORING:

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. Common implementation monitoring includes forage production, forage utilization, photo points, condition of improvements, actual use and precipitation data.

IV. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE:

The Forest Service may spot check range improvements before the entry date to insure 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.

Please keep in mind that even if livestock are not placed in a certain portion of the allotment, water must still be made available to wildlife in all water developments on the allotment.

All troughs should have water when livestock are not present and be equipped so that small animals can safely enter and exit.

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.

The following improvement schedule has been assigned for several years in a row now. Please make these projects a priority this year. You will be expected to have these complete by January 2022.

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date

	Beacon Tank/# 124013	During the 2021 grazing season	Investigate Beacon Tank (#124013) and possibilities for repair. Notify Douglas Ranger District for authorized access to the tank prior to any labor completion on this project.	
	Water System # 124018	During the 2021 grazing season	Repair/ Replace existing troughs along Big Bend Pipeline (124018).	
	Fence #12413	During the 2021 grazing season	Replace ½ mile of the allotment boundary fence #12413 between the Big Bend allotment and the Barboot allotment in the Tom Ketchum Canyon. The Forest Service will supply the materials required.	

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence		General fence maintenance and repair	On going

V. REFUNDS AND CREDIT OF GRAZING FEES PAID (FSM 2238.11g)

Refunds will only be approved where the term grazing permit has been waived, the waiver of term grazing permit has been confirmed by the authorized officer, and a new permit issued to a qualified applicant indicated on the waiver of term grazing permit (FS-2200-12), or if a current permittee has applied for, and the authorized officer has approved, nonuse for which grazing fees have previously been paid.

Grazing fee credits will be approved when late entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the permittee for legitimate reasons and/or when delayed entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the authorized officer for reasons of resource protection. Credit for grazing fees will not be approved merely for the convenience of the permittee after the bill for collection is issued.

VI. 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. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only. Please report all fires to the Tucson Interagency Fire Coordination Center at 1-800-549-0661.

VII. 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.

Keep a copy of these Annual Operating Instructions for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Ruppel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger