

BIG BUG ALLOTMENT 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

PLANNING OBJECTIVES

- Identification of specific management tools/resource objectives and constraints for this grazing season.
- Review general permit administration and livestock management requirements.
- Document any needs or agreements beyond the standard directions.

AUTHORIZATION

Upon payment of fees livestock are authorized as follows for 2016:

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u> (may be modified to meet utilization)
140	Bannie Eugene	3/1
	Green Gulch/Whitehorse	- 7/15
140	Mesa, Reforestation	7/16 - 10/1
140	Pvt	10/2-10/30
45	Daniels, Hackberry	10/30 -
	Poland, Hackberry	- 2/28
95	Bannie Eugene	0/30 - 2/28/2016

The Grapevine Botanical Area is closed to grazing. However, permitted livestock shall be allowed to trail through the Bootlegger-Grapevine Unit on established road FR87A with no drifting allowed.

MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- Follow forage and browse use standards. Utilization needs to be at a level that allows for sufficient litter to protect soils and watershed conditions and provide an opportunity for perennial grasses and major browse species to maintain or improve their vigor. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, regardless of the planned move dates.
- Maximum allowable use:
 - **Uplands:** *On palatable grasses:* 40% while actively growing, 55% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders.
 - **Riparian:** *On palatable grasses and sedges:* 30% of the total weight available. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders and 20% on riparian woody species.
- 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 thoughtful placement of salt, mineral and protein is a valuable distribution aid. Do not place salt, protein, or other supplements in heavy use areas or within a ¼ mile of water (this includes seeps and springs). Instead, place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.
- The Forest Officer must be given actual use, by pasture.
- Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if a week or two in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer promptly.
- Move your livestock regardless of the date shown above, to avoid exceeding allowable use levels. If utilization levels are appropriate then livestock moves must be 90% accomplished by the dates given above.
- You are responsible for your representatives and/or employees following all Forest Officer instructions.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION OR BETTERMENT

**Maintenance will follow the standards in your Part 3 of your grazing permit. In addition to routine maintenance, the following is planned for this year:
Clean Green Gulch Tank and ditch, Archeological clearance completed.**

Fences that need to be repaired in 2016 in order of priority

1. (Green Gulch) and waterlot ?
2. White Horse
3. Bootlegger
4. Five points holding
5. Battle Fire pasture

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

All fences must be checked prior to moving cattle into that pasture.

FS will look into clearances to fence boundary of Grapevine Botanical and maintaining trail up mesa (Coyote Spring)

PERMIT CONDITIONS

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,

AGREED TO BY

(b) (6)

2-11-16
Date

APPROVED BY:

[Signature]

02/11/16
Date

District Ranger

SARAH TOMASKY