

**2024  
Annual Operating Instructions  
Big Bug Allotment**

This document serves as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Big Bug 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 these Annual Operating Instructions are 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 for the grazing season:

Number of Livestock	Pasture	Grazing Period
140	Bootlegger*	2/20-3/15
140	Little Mesa	3/15-5/31
140	Mesa	6/1-9/30
140	Battle Fire	10/1-11/30
140	Smith	12/1/2024 - 2/28/2025
Rested Pastures	Whitehorse, Green Gulch, Smith, Bannie-Eugene, Hackberry-Daniels, Poland	

\*Bootlegger pasture will not be grazed in Gila Trout Spawning season (April 1-June 30).

The grazing management system will incorporate growing season rest or deferment to provide for grazed plant recovery. Livestock use in pastures will be rotated annually so that the pastures are not used during the same season every year.

Pastures with riparian ecosystems would primarily be grazed during plant dormancy periods. In some instances, growing season grazing may occur when conditions would encourage good livestock distribution in the uplands.

No grazing is authorized in the Walker, Lynx, and Walker Road East Pastures. In addition, no grazing is authorized in the Lynx Lake Recreation Area and Grapevine Botanical Area.

## **RESOURCE MONITORING**

### **Allowable Use**

The following is maximum allowable use: Uplands: *On key grass species*: 40% while actively growing, 55% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On key shrub species*: browsing of 50% of available leaders. Riparian: *On key grass and sedge species*: 4-6" on sedges and 8" on deergrass. *On key shrub species*: browsing of 50% 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, ensure water is available for wildlife and escape ramps are in place on troughs.

## **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 by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. 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.

Projects completed in 2023:

*Grapevine Well, Storage & pipeline*

Projects planned for 2024:

*Repair Big Bug Trick Tank Tarp, Drinkers, and Fence  
Construct enclosure at Turkey Spring*

Projects proposed for future clearance:

*Smith southwest end fence rebuild around private*

**DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed.

**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**

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).

ACCEPTED BY: Angela Leist member-manager - 2-14-24  
Permittee Date

APPROVED BY: John Kava 2/14/24  
John Kava, Acting District Ranger Date