

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Black Diamond Allotment/ Walnut Springs Allotment
2023 Grazing Year**

The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season.

I & II. AUTHORIZED USE and ROTATION SCHEDULE:

		Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs	
Authorized Use	Walnut Springs	3/1/2023	7/31/2023	153	71			3		375	372	
	Walnut Springs	10/1/2023	2/29/2024	152	71			3		373	370	
	Black Diamond	3/1/2023	7/31/2023	153	30					151	151	
	Black Diamond	11/15/2023	2/29/2024	107	30					106	106	
Private Land Permit	Black Diamond	3/1/2023	7/31/2023	153	7					35	35	
Private Land Permit	Black Diamond	11/15/2023	2/29/2024	107	7					25	25	
Total										1064	1058	
FS Total										1004	998	
Non-Use	Walnut Springs	3/1/2021	7/31/2021	153								
Reason:	Total										0	0
Proposed Rotation												
Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs	
Lower (Walnut)		3/1/2023	7/31/2023	153	71			3		375	372	
Lower (Black)		3/1/2023	7/31/2023	153	30					151	151	
Private Land Permit		3/1/2023	7/31/2023	153	7					35	35	
Off Forest		8/1/2023	9/30/2023	61								
Upper (Walnut)		10/1/2023	2/29/2024	152	71			3		373	367	
Upper (Black)		11/15/2023	2/29/2024	107	30					106	105	
Private Land Permit		11/15/2023	2/29/2024	107	7					25	25	
Applied For										1064	1055	
Total Permitted										1144	1144	
FS Permitted										1060	1060	
Non-Use												

This represents full permitted numbers.

This rotation schedule is dependent on climatic conditions and the availability of water. Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached and time required to remove cattle. Pasture rotation is designed to incorporate growing season rest or deferment to allow for grazed plant recovery. Pastures grazed during the summer growing season (July – September) in most cases will not be grazed during the growing season the following year. You are authorized to have your livestock on the above allotments during that time, similar to last year. However, the annual growing season rest these allotments receive during the later and more critical part of the growing season provide for a sufficient recovery period for forage species, allowing plants to mature and develop seeds.

Due to the severe drought during the summer of 2020 we all experienced in this region, changes to various types of management were needed in most cases. Although most locations had abundant moisture during the monsoon seasons of 2021 and 2022, there may be lasting effects of drought that are impacting your allotment. Please keep the natural resource conditions in the



forefront of your mind when making management decisions that affect your allotment, and please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan.

Please be sure to not exceed the permitted number of livestock.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this 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.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

V. 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.

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.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Roads	2022	Fixed roads on allotment	Done
	Fencing	Ongoing	Repaired fencing and water gaps; general fence maintenance	Ongoing
	Water	2022	Cleaned out tanks	

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Water/519009 (Black Diamond - Private)	TBD	Storage Tank at the beginning of Black Diamond Mine Pipeline 519009. This is on the privately owned mining claim, and not Forest Service land.	
	Water/159009		Replace pipeline that originates at Black Diamond Mine. The FS is willing to supply pipe to replace or repair this line	
	Water		Repair and replumb 5000 gal holding tank at Stacy Well	
	Fence		Repaired fencing and water gaps; general fence maintenance	

VI. 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.

Management direction applies as specified in the September 27, 2019 Amended Biological Assessment for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program and the September 30, 2021 Biological Opinion on Ongoing Grazing on the Coronado National Forest.

Keep this copy of these Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger