



File Code: 2230
Date: February 26, 2019

T-Link Ranches, Inc
Grazing Permittee
ATTN: Bob and Karen Fletcher
7839 W. Deer Valley Rd.
Peoria, AZ 85382

Dear Bob and Karen:

The following are your 2019 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Blackjack and New River grazing allotments. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan and available information describing range conditions.

2019 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Blackjack
Permittee: T-Link Ranches, Inc.
Permit Numbers: 12165, 12166

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Blackjack Allotment			
T-Link Ranches, Inc.	305 Cow / Calf	Term	3/1 - 2/28
T-Link Ranches, Inc.	35 Bulls	Term	3/1 - 2/28
New River Allotment			
T-Link Ranches, Inc.	250 Cow / Calf	Term	3/1 - 2/28

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

The cattle will be split into two herds on Blackjack and two herds on New River in order to better distribute use across the pastures.



Allotment	Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Blackjack Allotment North Herd 155 C/c 17 B					
Blackjack	Cedar Mtn.	March 1 st Aug 30 th	May 1 st and July 30 th	155 Cows 15 Bulls 10 Horses Yearlings	
Blackjack	Triple Tanks	Sept 1 st Nov 30 th	October 15 th	155 Cows 15 Bulls 10 Horses	
Blackjack	Lockwood	Dec 1 st Feb 29 th	Dec 15 th and Feb 1 st	155 Cows 15 Bulls 10 Horses	
Blackjack	Holmes			155 Cows 15 Bulls 10 Horses	Backup if needed anytime from Oct to Feb
Blackjack Allotment South Herd 150 C/c 18 B					
Blackjack	Bull	March 1 st April 15 th	March 15 th	150 cows 15 bulls 10 Horses	
Blackjack	Blackjack	April 16 th Sept 15 th	May 1 st Aug 15 th	150 cows 15 bulls 10 Horses	
Blackjack	Rincon	Sept 16 th February 29 th	November 15 th Feb 1 st	150 cows 15 bulls 10 Horses	
Blackjack	Lime Creek			150 cows 15 bulls 10 Horses	Backup if needed anytime from Sept to Feb
New River Allotment Main Herd 250 C/c					
New River	Cooks Mesa	March 1 st April 30 th	April 1 st , May 10 th	250 Cows 25 Bulls 10 Horses	
New River	Grapevine	May 1 st November 30 th	July 1 st , September 15 th	250 Cows 25 Bulls 10 Horses	
New River	River Pasture	December 1 st February 29 th	January 5 th	250 Cows 25 Bulls 10 Horses	
New River	New River, Cottonwood and N. Canyon			250 Cows 25 Bulls 10 Horses	Back up if needed for fall of 2018.

Monitoring:

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.

Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

Vegetative Use Guidelines:

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

Vegetation	Use Threshold
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Stream banks (if applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable stream banks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum
Annual Grasses	50% current year's growth

Feral Cattle:

You are authorized to work together with your neighboring permittees to gather any unbranded or unauthorized on your allotments. Coordinate with the brand inspector to confirm they are not branded before taking them to sale. Please keep Keenan Bender informed on the status of any unbranded or unauthorized cattle you find on your allotments.

Range Improvement Maintenance:

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2019 authorized range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Multiple	Multiple	Fences on the New River Allotment will be reconstructed to F.S. Standards	No new disturbance is authorized, fences must remain within the original footprint of the existing fence line
Multiple	Multiple	Cleaning out Dirt Stock Tanks	Multiple stock tanks on the Blackjack and New River Grazing allotments are planned to be cleaned, No new disturbance to access these tanks is authorized without prior approval. All work must be coordinated through the district.
Multiple	Multiple	New River Blackjack Water Project	All clearances have been made for the project as planned. Any deviations from the planned project may require further clearance

Salting:

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

Supplements and Attractants

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

Supplemental Feeding:

No supplemental feeding is authorized.

Weeds

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Keenan Bender, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (480) 595-3331.

Sincerely,



MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger