



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cave Creek
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2230

Date: January 31st, 2020

2020 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: New River/Blackjack

Permittee: T-Link Ranches, Inc

Permit Numbers: 12165, 12166

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
T-Link Ranches, Inc	400 Cow / Calf- New River	Term	1/1-12/31
T-Link Ranches, Inc	460 Cow/Calf 322 yearlings Blackjack	Term	1/1-12/31 1/1-5/31

1. Authorization: Authorized to graze the following in 2020:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
T-Link Ranches, Inc	250 C/C- New River 152 C/C- Blackjack- north 150 C/C- Blackjack- south	Term	03/01-2/28
T-Link Ranches, Inc	25 Bulls- New River 15 Bulls- Blackjack- north 15 Bulls- Blackjack- south	Term	03/01-2/28
T-Link Ranches, Inc	6 Horses- New River 10 Horses- Blackjack- north 4 Horses- Blackjack- south	Term	03/01-2/28



Management: New River/Blackjack 2020 Pasture Rotation:

Allotment	Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Blackjack Allotment North Herd 152 C/c 15 B					
Blackjack	Lockwood	Thru March 30, 2020		152 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack	Holmes	April 1- Aug 1, 2020		152 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack	Cedar Mnt	Aug 2- Dec 1, 2020		152 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack	Triple Tank	Dec 2- AOI		152 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack Allotment South Herd 150 C/c 15 B					
Blackjack	Rincon	Thru Feb 1, 2020		150 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack	Lime Creek	Feb 2- June 1, 2020		150 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack	Blackjack	June 2- Nov 30, 2020		150 C/c 15 B	
Blackjack	Rincon	Dec 1- AOI		150 C/c 15 B	
New River Allotment Main Herd 250 C/c 25 B					
New River	River/ North Canyon	Thru June 1, 2020		250 C/c 25 B	
New River	Cooks Mesa	June 2- Nov 1, 2020		250 C/c 25 B	
New River	East Mesa/ West Point	Nov 2- March 31, 2020		250 C/c 25 B	
New River	Willow Springs/New Cabin	May 1- Nov 1, 2020		70 C/c 7 B	
New River	Moore's Gulch	Nov 2- April 1, 2020		70 C/c 7 B	

The above table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing pasture and anticipated use dates. Numbers of livestock or rotation may be adjusted if the utilization standards or other management objectives within the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) are not being

achieved. If you identify the need to differ from this management system, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that District personnel have time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

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.

Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

Riparian vegetation can be monitored any time the cattle are in the pasture to ensure that there is residual vegetation present for streambank protection during flow events.

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.

If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas with less use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas that have met allowable use, or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made in future AOI's to avoid recurring situations. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds.

Vegetation	Utilization Standards
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Riparian emergent species	Maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 40% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks

4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:

Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

5. Salt and Supplement Policy:

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non-energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands is prohibited.

6. Range Improvements:

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance or repairs are excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work to inquire about the availability of materials, necessary clearances and for a permit modification.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, and springs, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following table describes 2020 authorized range improvement projects.

Improvement	Location	Description of Work
Springs: maintenance	N/A	
Dirt/Stock Tank: maintenance	Surveys have to be done first. See map for requested tanks.	
Fences: maintenance	Willow Springs/New Cabin/Moore's Gulch boundary fence	Make sure all old fencing materials are removed from FS lands

	• Upper Ranch/Lower Upper Ranch fence line • Middle Cabin Shipping fenceline	• If machinery is needed surveys will need to be completed prior to work starting.
New Water Systems	• Working with NRCS	

Please notify the district two weeks prior to the planned start date of work.

7. Invasive Plants:

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants. If you see a plant you do not recognize, please document it and submit it to the District for identification.

8. Projects for District to work on:

- Evaluate roads for installation of cattle guards as gates after travel management has been decided.
- Evaluate about 100 acres north of private on Rd 24 for veg tx.
- Working with NRCS to aid in securing a contract to help with improvements.
- Survey dirt tanks for maintenance. See map.

9. Upcoming meetings:

- Fire Ecology with Dave Ramirez: March 3, 2020, 10-12:00.


 Micah Grondin, District Ranger

1/30/2020
 Date

 Permittee

 Date