



File Code: 2210
Date: February 2, 2022

Blackjack and New River Allotments

Dear Permittee,

On Wednesday, February 2nd, you met with Matt and I to discuss your 2022 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Blackjack and New River Allotments. This AOI is a guide for management of the T-Link Ranches, INC. for the 2022 grazing year. This plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your 2021 AOIs.

I. PERMITTED USE/AUTHORIZED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the Blackjack and New River Allotments as per Term Grazing Permit #12165 and #12166 issued to T-Link Ranches, INC.

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	460	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	322	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
	400	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
*Yearlings are the progeny of the above adult cattle and are not a fixed number			

T-Link Ranches, INC is authorized to run at the following numbers for the 2022 Grazing Year (GY).

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	691	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	300	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/1
	71	Bulls	3/1 to 2/28
Horse	10	Horse	3/1 to 2/28
*Yearlings are being held as carry over			

II. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Below is the discussed rotation that will be approved for GY 2022. Adjustments to pasture rotation, season of use and numbers may vary depending on several factors including, but not limited to, precipitation, water availability and forage conditions. If an adjustment to the rotation is needed and/or management concerns exist, please contact the District Range Staff in advance to arrange an adjustment to the rotation.



The desired utilization level for 2022 grazing season is 35% on key species in the key areas and we would like to monitor utilization with you after the livestock leave a pasture.

<i>New River North Herd</i>	<i>58 c/c, 6 Bulls</i>	
<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Willow Springs	58 c/c, 6 Bulls	March 01 to September 01
Moors Gulch	58 c/c, 6 Bulls	September 02 to February 28

<i>New River South Herd</i>	<i>303 c/c, 33 Bulls</i>	
<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
New River Mesa	303 c/c, 33 Bulls	March 01 to May 01
Grapevine	303 c/c, 33 Bulls	May 02 to September 01
River	303 c/c, 33 Bulls	September 02 to February 01
North Canyon	303 c/c, 33 Bulls	February 01 to February 28

<i>Blackjack Herd</i>	<i>330 c/c, 32 Bulls, 10 Horse, 300 Yearlings</i>	
<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Triple Tanks	330 c/c, 32 Bulls, 10 Horse	March 01 to April 01
Blackjack/Rincon	330 c/c, 32 Bulls, 10 Horse	April 02 to September 01
Lime Creek	330 c/c, 32 Bulls, 10 Horse	September 02 to November 01
Cedar Mountain	330 c/c, 32 Bulls, 10 Horse	November 02 to February 28

Steer Tank	300 Yearlings	January 01 to March 01
Lockwood	300 Yearlings	March 02 to May 01

A one-week buffer is allowed on either side of the date to get cattle moved from one pasture to the next. If additional time is needed it must be discussed and approved by the Forest Service prior to the move date.

Continued monitoring, water availability, and forage conditions will be assessed over the next several months leading into the seasonal monsoon timeframe. A second AOI meeting may be needed to adjust management concerns for precipitation. Continuous discussions will occur in that timeframe.

III. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21. Grazing will be managed so that conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term. Considerable research has been done showing that conservative use levels will allow for sustaining and improving watershed conditions. Conservative utilization levels are as follows:

Upland	Herbaceous:	30 to 40% of current year's growth.
	Woody:	50% of current year's growth.

Riparian	Herbaceous:	40% of plant species biomass (any species) and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height.
	Woody:	50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6' tall.
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's	20% Optimum to 40% Maximum	Management of PAC's for Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in TNF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13).

Utilization will be measured in key areas for key forage species when livestock leave the pasture. However, grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season in order to practice proactive management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. Utilization measurements serve as only one piece of information that is considered when evaluating the effectiveness of allotment management. Utilization data will be coupled with other information such as vegetation condition, drought, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, and long-term trends, in order to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

IV. MONITORING

Monitoring dates are tentative, and some may not be required. Range personnel from the Cave Creek District may contact you prior to monitoring visits. We encourage your participation in these inspections, as it provides an opportune time to discuss resource conditions and management items. VGS Monitoring may be conducted in the spring and/or fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

V. ADMINISTRATION

The records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit must be maintained. The permittee must hold ownership of the corporation (if applicable), deed for the base property, and brand associated with that permit for the entire term of the permit. Any undocumented changes in ownership are a violation of the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit under Part 2, Sec. 7.

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Salting may be used to aid in livestock distribution and management. Salting must be located no closer than ¼ mile from waters, streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION I MAINTENANCE

The permittee shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the Forest Officer in charge of the allotment.

Blackjack & New River Allotment Improvement Work Schedule, 2022		
Improvement Type	Improvement Name	Work Period and Notes
Dirt/Earthen Tanks	Brushy Tank	Work with District Range Specialist on access to Brushy Tank.
New Water Systems	All approved water projects listed in 2018 Decision Memo for Blackjack and New River Allotment Water Project.	Please follow project designs listed within 2018 permit modification.

The following projects are awaiting approval. Please do not start work on the following projects until approval has been granted.

- Ash Spring- Further understanding of paperwork that permittee signs every year is being researched. Please do not start work until information is provided by District Range Staff.
- New River Tank Cleaning Project. District Range Staff is looking through records to see what has been cleared and what still needs clearance. Please do not start work until notified by District Range Staff.

Maintenance of existing improvements is exempt from additional heritage (archaeological) clearances, however, may require a simple biological review before work may proceed. Timing restrictions for project work may also be stipulated based on the type of equipment used to perform the work. Please provide the Forest Service with advanced notice of any maintenance you wish to perform so there is enough time to complete any required reviews.

The following mitigation measures must be followed when cleaning earthen stock tanks:

- Maintenance will be conducted using backhoes with rubber tires or bulldozers no larger than a Caterpillar D7
- Bentonite may be worked into soils of the dirt tanks in order to bind soil for increased tank effectiveness. The Forest Service may have bentonite available upon request. All dirt tank work will be arranged within the existing tank basin. No additional ground disturbances will be authorized outside the existing basins, earthen dams, or designated travel paths of the equipment to the tanks.
- Cleaning bar ditches is not authorized. Bar ditches will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- You may not drop the blade on your equipment until your machine is within the existing tank expect to push an occasional boulder or tree out of your path.

- Confine all activities to existing disturbances from previous construction and existing vehicular travel ways. If the previous access or trails are not apparent, contact our office so we may clear a route free of cultural resources. Please leave no evidence of your route to the tank and do not improve the route to the tank.

VIII. 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.

IX. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity.

X. PERMIT CONDITIONS

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

Sincerely,



MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger