

**2024 Annual Operating Instructions**  
Alpine Ranger District

**Allotment Name:** Bobcat-Johnson, Fishhook-Steeple Mesa, and Beaver Creek Allotments

**Annual Authorization livestock numbers and dates:**

Bobcat-Johnson	32 c/c	03/01-05/31 and 10/26-02/28
Fishhook-Steeple Mesa*	105 c/c	03/01-05/31 and 10/26-02/28
Beaver Creek*	147 c/c	06/01-10/25

The level of authorized use and grazing schedule as indicated in this AOI are based on the best information available at this time. These are subject to change as actual site-specific forage conditions and available livestock watering sources are determined at the start of and during the annual authorized season of use.

**Table 1. Pasture Rotation Schedule**

Pasture	Use Period	Midpoint Date	Number Of Days	
<b>Bobcat-Johnson Allotment</b>				
Johnson	3/01-5/31	04/15	92	
Lower Centerfire	10/26-2/28	12/27	126	
Upper/Lower Centerfire	10/15-02/28	11/20	75	10 LWJ & 15 <u>WY</u> Bulls
<b>Fishhook Steeple Mesa Allotment</b>				
Fishhook	3/01-5/31	04/15	92	
Steeple	10/26-2/28	12/27	126	
<b>Foot Creek Winter</b>				
Foot Creek Winter	3/01-5/31	04/15	92	10 LWJ & 15 <u>WY</u> Bulls
<b>Beaver Creek Allotment</b>				
Castle Creek	6/01-6/30	6/15	30	
Bardman	7/01-09/27	8/15	89	
West Beaver	09/28-10/25	10/11	28	
<b>LWJ and <u>WY</u> permitted Traps and Holding Pastures</b>				
used as needed for calving/holding/shipping during authorized use dates				

\*FSH 2209.13\_10\_16.16 – “Annual Changes in Grazing For Trial Periods” states: “A temporary change in the number, kind, class of livestock, grazing management, or season of use from that shown on the term permit may be approved by the Authorized Officer if determined to be consistent with the Forest Land Management Plan and if the changes are determined to benefit management of the rangeland resources.” Considering this FSH direction and to resolve the disparity in stocking rates and bridge the gap between winter and summer allotments seasons of use, you are authorized to implement changes indicated by an \* in the pasture use schedule listed above. Trial periods of this nature normally last 1-2 years, however due to the complexity of managing these allotments, Wallow Fire impacts to range infrastructure being repaired or replaced, and permittee proven ability for superior range management this trial period may last up to 3-5 years while new environmental analysis can be completed. All other management requirements, including utilization guidelines, listed in each allotment management plan will be adhered to.

## **Utilization Guidelines**

The following utilization guidelines will be applied on the Bobcat-Johnson, Fishhook/Steeple Mesa, and Beaver Creek Allotments:

- 40% use, by weight of current year's growth, on upland perennial grass species.
- 40% use, by number of growing leaders, on upland browse species.
- 45% use, by weight of current year's growth, on riparian grass species.
- 45% use, by number of growing leader's, on riparian browse species.
- Within Northern goshawk territories, a utilization level in forested areas (includes small openings) of 20% average by weight, not to exceed 40% in any one area, on grasses and forbs.
- Within Mexican spotted owl habitat, to maintain prey species habitat needs, a utilization level of 20-40%.

**Key Area Monitoring:** Utilization levels may be checked prior to livestock entering the allotment, near the midpoint, or post grazing depending on management needs.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas, when practical. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

**Maintenance of range improvements:** Permittees will maintain assigned range improvements within their Allotment. This is in accordance with Part 3, clause 2 of the term grazing permit. If your neighbor is turning out before you on an adjacent pasture and the boundary fence is your responsibility, this fence must be repaired before your neighbor turns out. The permittee must obtain permission from the District Ranger, before conducting earth- disturbing activities on the National Forest.

**Livestock Distribution:** Salting and maintaining improvements are good ways to achieve proper livestock distribution. Salt should be located at least ¼ mile from water, and preferably on ridges and/or areas of low use. Do not place salt blocks in the same location as the previous year and locate blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Supplemental feeding, other than mineral or supplement block is not authorized on the National Forest. Frequent riding may be necessary to achieve livestock distribution. A full-time rider may be needed to herd livestock to lightly used areas, reducing grazing pressure on riparian areas and meadows.

**Fire Prevention:** All vehicles should be equipped with a properly functioning exhaust system. A shovel and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires should be carried. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, must have a fire ring down to the mineral soil, and be handled in a safe manner. All State and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to fire dispatch at **928-333-6360**.