



File Code: 2210

Date: January 11, 2023

Muleshoe X Cattle Co., an AZ Limited Partnership
Attn: Robert Randall
PO Box 185
Pine, AZ 85544

Dear Robert:

This Annual Operating Instruction is a guide for management of the **Cedar Bench Allotment** for the **2023 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 2022 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the **Cedar Bench Allotment** as per Term Grazing Permit #12203 issued to Muleshoe X Cattle Co, an AZ Limited Partnership.

| KIND | CLASS | NUMBER | AUM | SEASON OF USE |
|--------|------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|
| CATTLE | MATURE COW | 395 | 2,765 | 11/1 - 5/31 (212 days) |

II. AUTHORIZED USE

The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the **Cedar Bench Allotment** this year.

| KIND | CLASS | NUMBER | AUM | SEASON OF USE |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| CATTLE | MATURE COW | 320 | 2,240 | 11/1 - 5/31 |
| CATTLE | YEARLINGS | 60 | 294 | 11/1 - 5/31 |
| CATTLE | BULLS | 20 | 210 | 11/1 - 5/31 |
| Total | | 400 | 2,744 | |



ROTATION SCHEDULE

Actual dates may vary depending upon climatic conditions, drought, wildfire, noxious weeds, soil, and range conditions, conflicts with or for protection of wildlife, water availability, utilization levels and time required to move livestock. Any deviation from this schedule will need to be discussed with Payson range staff prior to authorization to move your cattle outside of the dates listed. Estimates of forage utilization will be performed and documented on pastures about the time the pasture is vacated.

| AUTHORIZED PASTURE | CLASS OF LIVESTOCK | AUTHORIZED NUMBERS | AUTHORIZED SEASON OF USE |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| CANE MOUNTAIN | COWS/CALVES | 320 | 3/1 – 5/15 |
| | BULLS | 20 | |
| | YEARLINGS | 60 | |
| BUTTES/OPEN | COWS/CALVES | 320 | 5/16 – 5/31 |
| | BULLS | 20 | |
| | YEARLINGS | 60 | |
| RANCH | COWS/CALVES | 320 | 5/15 – 5/31 |
| | BULLS | 20 | |
| | YEARLINGS | 60 | |
| OPEN/BUTTES | COWS/CALVES | 320 | 11/1 – 11/30 |
| | BULLS | 20 | |
| | YEARLINGS | 60 | |
| UPPER/LOWER PLOW BEAM | COWS/CALVES | 320 | 12/1 – 2/29 |
| | BULLS | 20 | |
| | YEARLINGS | 60 | |

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: | 30-40% 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 on Deergrass |
| | Woody: | 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6 feet tall |

| | |
|---|--|
| Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (Where Applicable) | 20% optimum to 40% maximum Management Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in the Tonto NF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13). |
|---|--|

Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season, in key areas¹ for key forage species². 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, 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 Payson District will be contacting 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 fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

V. ADMINISTRATION

The table below indicates the records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit. 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| Entity/Person(s) Designated as Permittee | MULESHOE X CATTLE CO., AN AZ LIMITED PARTNERSHIP |
| Base Property | Deed Held By: MULESHOE X CATTLE COMPANY 32 acres of HES 390-08343 as recorded in DKT. 1032, PG 980 C. C. R. situated in the SE ¼ of Section 35, T 15N, R9E Gila & Salt River Base Meridian, Coconino County, AZ. |
| Brand | Owner: MULESHOE X CATTLE CO., AN AZ #06570 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP Expires: April 15, 2025  |

¹ Key areas are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as being ¼ to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing.

² Key forage species are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as plants chosen to be appropriate to monitor average allowable use.

We request that you maintain records that reveal the number of livestock, date of entry, and the date of livestock leaving each pasture and submit them to us at the end of the grazing season.

VI. FORAGE GROWTH & WATER AVAILABILITY

As per Part 2, Section 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2019 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

VII. 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 streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / 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. Always contact the District prior to beginning any work to check current fire restrictions.

| CEDAR BENCH ALLOTMENT IMPROVEMENT WORK SCHEDULED | | 2023 |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| IMPROVEMENT NAME AND NUMBER | WORK PERIOD | COMMENTS |
| Allotment boundary maintenance* | Throughout grazing season | See permit modification no. 2022-01 for details |

*The permittee is required to work closely with District Range Specialists to understand the equipment restrictions within wilderness boundaries and adhere to the approved equipment use while implementing the project.

IX. 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.

X. 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.

XI. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Paciorek', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew Paciorek
District Ranger