

**CHINO VALLEY / QUARTZ WASH ALLOTMENTS  
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
2024/2025 GRAZING YEAR**

This document serves as your 2024/25 Grazing Year, Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Quartz Wash and Chino Valley Allotments. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

**GRAZING SCHEDULE**

The Annual stocking level (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking level is based on current and expected forage production. The planned use period in a pasture and livestock numbers can/should be adjusted if conditions change, either (shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability but not in excess of the permitted numbers and utilization in key areas).

\*Any changes from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance and will be made only with prior written Forest Service Officer Approval. (An Amendment)

\*If emergency conditions require making an immediate change, notify the Forest Service Officer promptly.

**Quartz Wash**

Number of Livestock	Pasture	Grazing Period
75	Fritche	Nov 01- Dec 15
75	Quartz	Dec 16 – Apr 15
75	Center	Apr 16 – May 31

**Chino Valley**

48	Chino Valley	Nov 01-May 31

**RESOURCE MONITORING**

**ALLOWABLE USE**

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, no matter what the dates on paper are.

### **Chino Valley:**

The following is maximum allowable use: **Uplands:** *On palatable grasses:* 50% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year production. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders.

### **Quartz Wash:**

- UTILIZE NEW DRINKERS IN QUARTZ AND CENTER.
- Conservative grazing intensity (35-45% use) on key forage plants in upland key areas as measured at the end of the growing season or seasonal use period;
- Up to 50-60% leaders browsed on key upland woody species;
- Minimum stubble height on key riparian herbaceous species, four to six inches where sedges and rushes are key and eight inches where deergrass is key;
- Up to 20% use by weight on key woody species within riparian areas; or less than 50% of terminal leaders browsed on woody species less than 6 feet tall.

### **Site Specific:**

Incidental use 0-30% of herbaceous plants in the Center and Fritsche Pastures (TEUI 412) to improve the vegetative groundcover towards site potential and reduce spatial distance (gap) between herbaceous plants, and reduce soil compaction; use active livestock management techniques (herding, salt and supplement placement, etc.) to disperse cattle throughout the pasture and discourage concentration and trailing within this soil map unit.

Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.

### **RESOURCE OBJECTIVES for THIS GRAZING SEASON**

Proper livestock management practices, e.g. distribution, timing of grazing, and intensity of grazing, must be managed closely to provide for plant maintenance, improved vigor, and maintenance/improvement of vegetative ground cover. When cattle are not in a pasture, ensure water is available for wildlife and escape ramps are in place on troughs.

### **SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES**

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; (See AMP and Term Grazing Permit for the complete list of the guidelines.) Place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use. **No salt or mineral will be placed in TEUI 412 or 417.**

### **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

#### Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements. Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest may replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life if properly maintained; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning.

Projects:

- USFS, ADA (Arizona Deer Association) and AZ Game and Fish funded/completed a pipeline from Quartz well southwest to water the center unit and the Quartz unit. This improvement is fully functional and is now the responsibility of the permittee to maintain.
- Roll up 1/2 mile non-functional fence in the Quartz unit

**DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed our area in a drought. It was agreed that due to the above factors as well as that with the current precipitation conditions and the fact that there was abundant forage left over at the end of the growing season the livestock numbers would remain at the numbers in the above chart unless the allotment moves into a negative drought status.

**TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

**PERMIT CONDITIONS**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow 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 (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit).

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy District Ranger

Date

AGREED TO BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee

Date

10-25-24

10-9-24