



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payson
Ranger
District

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Payson, AZ 85541
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File Code: 2210

Date: January 24, 2022

Walnut Creek Ventures LLC
Attn: Heber and Carrie Robbs
PO Box 525
Young AZ 85554

Dear Heber and Carrie:

This Annual Operating Instruction is a guide for management of the **Christopher Mountain/Ellinwood & Marsh Creek Allotments** 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 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the **Christopher Mountain/Ellinwood Allotment** as per Term Grazing Permit #12152 issued to Walnut Creek Ventures LLC

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUM	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	MATURE COW WITH NURSING CALF	200	3168	3/1 - 2/28
		TOTAL	3168	

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the **Marsh Creek Allotment** as per Term Grazing Permit #12204 issued to Walnut Creek Ventures LLC

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUM	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	MATURE COW WITH NURSING CALF	20	213	1/1 - 10/31
		TOTAL	213	

II. AUTHORIZED USE

The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the **Christopher Mountain/Ellinwood Allotment** this year.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	COW/CALF	95	3/1 - 10/31
CATTLE	COW/CALF	120	11/1 - 2/28
CATTLE	BULLS	13	3/1- 10/31
CATTLE	BULLS	15	11/1 - 2/28



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

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	COW/CALF	23	3/1 – 10/31
CATTLE	BULLS	2	3/1 – 10/31

III. 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 should be discussed with Payson/PV range staff prior to moving 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.

CHRISTOPHER MTN/ELLINWOOD/ MARSH CREEK			
AUTHORIZED PASTURE	CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	AUTHORIZED NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
MESCAL RIDGE	COWS/CALVES	30	3/1 – 10/31
	BULLS	4	
COTTONWOOD	COWS/CALVES	30	3/1 – 10/31
	BULLS	4	
HORSE	COWS/CALVES	35	3/1 – 10/31
	BULLS	5	
MARSH CREEK	COWS/CALVES	23	3/1 – 10/31
	BULLS	2	
MESCAL RIDGE	COWS/CALVES	120	11/1 – 2/28
	BULLS	15	

IV. 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).
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Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season, in key areas* for key forage species**. 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.

* 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.

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

V. MONITORING

Monitoring dates are tentative and some may not be required. Range personnel from the Payson/PV 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.

VI. 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	Walnut Creek Ventures LLC		
Base Property	Deed Held By: Walnut Creek Ventures LLC Parcel # 305-12-002S located in Gila County, AZ		
Brand	Owner: Walnut Creek Ventures LLC	#07756 Expires: February 15, 2026	

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.

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.

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,

Matthew Paciorek
District Ranger