

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**Cochise Head Allotment
2024 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2024** grazing season for your portion of the **Cochise Head** allotment.

I. AUTHORIZED USE/ROTATION SCHEDULE: The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

Authorized Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Cochise Head - North Portion	3/1/2024	4/30/2024	61	67					134	134
Cochise Head - North Portion	11/1/2024	2/28/2025	120	67					264	264
Total									399	399

Non-Use

	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Cochise Head - North Portion	3/1/2024	4/30/2024	61	25					50	50
Cochise Head - North Portion	11/1/2024	2/28/2025	120	25					99	99
Total									149	149

Reason: Resource Protection

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Brushy		3/1/2024	4/30/2024	61	65		2			135	134
Cochise		11/1/2024	12/31/2024	61	65		2			135	134
Keating		1/1/2025	2/28/2025	59	65		2			131	130
									Applied For	401	399
									Permitted	547	547

Due to the ongoing drought we all are experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management are needed in most cases. Please keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that affect your allotment, and please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan.

Term Grazing Permits are required to be stocked to 90% of capacity each grazing season, unless either Personal Convenience or Range Improvement Non-Use has been approved for range improvement reasons, due to the persistent effects of the ongoing drought. Personal Convenience Non-Use may be taken for no more than 3 years consecutively and not more than 4 years out of any ten-year period.

Actual rotation dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached, and time required to remove cattle.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this office in advance. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that



are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.

Please be sure to not exceed the permitted number of livestock.

III. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS:

Utilization in all pastures is not to exceed 45% in the key areas. Please refer to your key area map. Herding and salting will be used to ensure allowable use is not exceeded. If allowable use is in danger of being exceeded, the cattle should be removed from that pasture until the range recovers. Salt and supplement will be placed appropriately, on good feed, at least ¼ mile from water and out of livestock concentration areas and more than 200 feet from roads. Salt and supplement locations should be rotated so as not to degrade a particular site. Salt blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, or roads. Blocks should be placed on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.

IV. MONITORING:

The permittee will record actual use as it occurs, including livestock numbers and dates permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual operating instruction meeting. Common implementation monitoring includes forage production, forage utilization, photo points, condition of improvements, actual use and precipitation data.

V. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE:

The Forest Service may spot check range improvements before the entry date to ensure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed.

All troughs should have water when livestock are not present and be equipped so that small animals can safely enter and exit.

New range improvements and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated until proper archeological clearances have been obtained. When improvements are completed, the permittee will inform District Range personnel to schedule an inspection. Before using machinery to clean any pond, the permittee is required to give the District Office at least 30 days advance notice so that the tank can be inspected for threatened or endangered species. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval by the District Ranger. Improvement schedule is dependent upon funding.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Water/Springs	2023	Calf Pen Springs - Maintenance	Complete
	Water/Springs	2023	Maintenance at Tub Spring	Complete
	Fence	2023	Boundary Fence replacement	Complete
	Fence	2022	Pasture fence Maintenance	On going

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Water/Spring	2024	Spring Maintenance	
	Trail	2024	Trail Maintenance	
	Fence	2024	Fence Maintenance	

VI. REFUNDS AND CREDIT OF GRAZING FEES PAID (FSM 2238.11g)

Refunds will only be approved where the term grazing permit has been waived, the waiver of term grazing permit has been confirmed by the authorized officer, and a new permit issued to a qualified applicant indicated on the waiver of term grazing permit (FS-2200-12), or if a current permittee has applied for, and the authorized officer has approved, nonuse for which grazing fees have previously been paid.

Grazing fee credits will be approved when late entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the permittee for legitimate reasons and/or when delayed entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the authorized officer for reasons of resource protection. Credit for grazing fees will not be approved merely for the convenience of the permittee after the bill for collection is issued.

VII. 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. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only. Please report all fires to the Tucson Interagency Fire Coordination Center at 1-800-549-0661.

VIII. PERMIT CONDITIONS:

This Annual Operating Instruction is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. 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.

Management direction applies as specified in the September 27, 2019, Amended Biological Assessment for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program and the September 30, 2021, Biological Opinion on Ongoing Grazing on the Coronado National Forest.

Keep this copy of the Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger