



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Cave Creek  
Ranger  
District

40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262  
Phone: 480.595.3300  
Fax: 480.595.3346

File Code: 2210

Date: January 27, 2014

(b) (6)

JH Cattle Company, LLC

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for meeting with Jeff Sturla on 12/17/2013 to develop and complete your 2014 grazing year Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). You had requested we complete the necessary NEPA to build a fence around Silver Creek in Bobcat Pasture due to Gila Chub management concerns. During grazing year 2013, you and Jeff Sturla inspected the bounds of the creek where the fence is proposed. As you are aware, NEPA is a detailed process that will take some time pending Specialists availability due to ongoing Forest projects. Jeff Sturla will keep you updated on the project. I commend your consideration to this management concern.

When you and Jeff met, you indicated you were working to get the new Arizona brand certificate, transferring the brand from your name to your LLC. Please let us know once you have this completed and send us copies.

Attached is your 2014 AOI for the Copper Creek grazing allotment. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Sturla at (480) 595-3331.

Sincerely,

AARON C. BALDRIDGE  
Acting District Ranger

cc: Charles J Denton



## 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

**Allotment:** Copper Creek

**Permittee:** JH Cattle Company, LLC

**Permit Number:** 12154

### Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
JH Cattle Company, LLC	220 Cow / Calf	Temporary	1/01-12/31
JH Cattle Company, LLC	10 Bulls	Temporary	1/01-12/31

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2014:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
JH Cattle Company, LLC	220 Cow/Calf	Temporary	1/01-12/31
JH Cattle Company, LLC	10 Bull	Temporary	1/01-12/31

2. **Management:** Copper Creek 2014 Pasture Rotation:

Grazing Pasture	Dates of Use	Authorized Livestock	Comments
Cornstalk / Granite	June 15 – Sept. 15	220 cows, 10 bulls	Cattle will be split between pastures.
Brooklyn	Sept. 16 – Nov. 15	220 cows, 10 bulls	Rosalie tank will be cleaned out prior to cattle entering pasture
Perry Mesa	Nov. 16 – Dec. 31	220 cows, 10 bulls	

The above table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing pasture and anticipated use dates. Numbers of livestock or rotation may be adjusted if the utilization standards or other management objectives of the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) are not being achieved. If you identify the need to differ from this management system, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the District has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

Riparian vegetation can be monitored any time the cattle are in the pasture to ensure that there is residual vegetation present for streambank protection during flow events.

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and

vigor, soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas that have met allowable use, or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years AOI to avoid recurring situations. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds.

<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>*Utilization Standards</b>
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Riparian emergent species	Maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 40% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks

\*Utilization standards are tiered to the 1997 Horseshoe/Copper Creek Allotments Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or the Forest Plan.

**4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

Per Part 2, clause 7(c) of your Temporary Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2014 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

**5. Salt and Supplement Policy:**

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites .25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non-energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National

Forest System Lands.

**6. Range Improvements:**

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance or repairs are excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work to inquire about the availability of materials, necessary clearances and for a permit modification.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, and springs, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following table describes 2014 authorized range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work
Perry Mesa	Rosalie Tank	Authorized to clean dirt tank.
Perry Mesa	Cattle guard between Perry Mesa Pasture and Lousy pasture (BLM-Horseshoe allotment)	Authorized to clean out cattle guard

**7. Invasive Plants:**

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

**8. The Copper Creek Allotment Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 7(a). The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the August 1997 Decision Notice for the Copper Creek Allotment, the July 1997 Copper Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan and in the Tonto National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Copper Creek Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.