



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cave Creek Ranger District

40202 North Cave Creek Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
480-595-3300
Fax: 480-595-3346

File Code: 2210
Date: May 1, 2024

Dear Copper Creek Permittee,

On Thursday, April 18th 2024, you met with Matt Kilford and I to discuss your 2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Copper Creek Allotment.

Your AOI is attached. If changes are needed to your rotation and/or management concerns exist, please contact the District Range Staff in advance to adjust your AOI.

Monitoring of forage conditions and water availability will continue over the next several weeks and into the monsoon season. A second AOI meeting may be needed to adjust management in response to resource conditions.

The AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your 2023 AOI. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Kilford at (480) 595-3331, or Kimberly Cole (928) 642-6118.

Sincerely,

MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger





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2024 Annual Operating Instructions Copper Creek

This AOI is a guide for management for the 2024 grazing year. The pasture rotation and numbers discussed are as follows:

Pasture	Numbers	Dates
Perry Mesa with Brooklyn	400 C/C, 11 Bulls	May 1 – July 31
Corn Stalk with Bobcat	400 C/C, 11 Bulls	October 1 – November 15

A one-week buffer is allowed on either side of the date to get cattle moved from one pasture to the next. If additional time is needed it must be discussed and approved by the Forest Service prior to the move date.

Management

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines applicable to Copper Creek livestock grazing will be followed (Forest Plan, p. 24).

- Salt and/or supplements will be placed where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low. Salt and/or supplements will not be placed any closer than one quarter mile from available water, recreation sites, or designated trails except where prior written approval had been obtained from the District Ranger. No salting will occur within or adjacent to identified heritage sites. Salt will be removed from pastures when cattle have left an area, and not placed within a pasture until the cattle arrive. Additionally, salt will not be placed in the same location(s) each year.
- Troughs will be left full of water and operational year-round for wildlife accessibility, unless in limited circumstances where extreme freezing conditions may damage facilities.
- When entering the next scheduled pasture, all livestock will be removed from the previous pasture within two weeks (dependent on terrain) and will ensure that enough time is allowed to remove livestock to meet the pasture move date(s).
- You will ensure all infrastructure is in functioning condition prior to entering the next scheduled pasture.



Forage utilization will be managed at a level corresponding to light to moderate intensity to provide for grazed plant recovery, increases in herbage production and retention of herbaceous litter to protect soils. Copper Creek utilization is as follows according to the 2017 AMP.

FORAGE TYPE	USE LEVELS
UPLANDS	30% to 40% on primary forage species.
RIPARIAN TREES	Limited to 50% of terminal leader (top 1/3 of plant) on palatable tree species accessible to livestock (<6 feet tall).
RIPARIAN GRASSES and GRASS LIKE SPECIES	Deergrass- Limit use to 40% of plant species biomass. Emergent species (rushes, sedges, cattails, horsetail)- Maintain a 6-8 inch stubble height during grazing period.

- If use levels are reached before schedule move dates, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture. If all pastures have been utilized before the end of the grazing season livestock will be removed from the allotment until the start of the next growing season.

You are encouraged to participate in all monitoring activities. Please keep records of actual use and movement dates to provide to the district range staff at the annual authorization meeting each year.

Improvements

You shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. You must receive district approval prior to bringing heavy equipment onto the Forest. Any maintenance or reconstruction will be confined within original site disturbance and construction design.

The following list are **new projects** approved for construction during the 2024 grazing season.

- New water developments (WD 1-13 in Copper Creek EA) may be installed once a permit modification including specifications is signed.