

**File Code:** 2210  
**Date:** January 11, 2024

## **2024 Annual Operating Instructions**

### **Cross F / Diamond Allotments**

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

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b><i>Cross F Allotment</i></b>		
Mazatzal	98 C/C, 11 Bulls, 10 horses	Mar 01 – April 15
Cottonwood	98 C/C, 11 Bulls, 10 horses	April 16 – June 30
Kitty Joe	98 C/C, 11 Bulls, 10 horses	July 01 – Sept 15
Sheep Creek	98 C/C, 11 Bulls, 10 horses	Sept 16 – Dec 15
Alder Creek	98 C/C, 11 Bulls, 10 horses	Dec 16 – Feb 28
<b><i>Diamond Allotment</i></b>		
Bob	125 C/C, 15 Bulls	March 01 – May 31
Kitty Joe East	125 C/C, 15 Bulls	June 01 – July 31
Ord	125 C/C, 15 Bulls	Aug 01 – Dec 31
Sycamore	125 C/C, 15 Bulls	Jan 01 – Feb 28
Diamond	Rest	

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 Cross F & Diamond Allotment's 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.
- To address concerns for riparian habitat in the Sycamore Creek Riparian and Kitty Joe West pastures, grazing use will be limited to winter use, determined by dormancy of riparian trees (the period between leaf drop and re-initiation of growth in spring). Each pasture would receive rest one out of every third year.

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. Cross F & Diamond Allotment’s utilization is as follows according to the 2015 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.

### Wildlife Mitigation

#### *Diamond Pasture*

Exclosure fence around Rock Spring will be maintained to prevent livestock access to the spring. This mitigation is required to protect an introduced population of Gila topminnow.

### 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.

#### *Active Permit Modifications:*

- **2022-01, 2202-02 Bush Fire Infrastructure Replacements including pipelines and fences.**