



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 23rd 2020

(b) (6)

Dagger Allotment
P.O. Box 731
Roosevelt, AZ 85545

Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2020 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Dagger grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan, and available information describing range conditions.

Authorized Use

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Upper Coon Creek	December 1 st March 15 th	March 13 th	180 Cow/calf 13 Bulls 30 Yearlings	
Cherry Creek	March 15 th July 15 th	July 10 th	180 Cow/calf 16 Bulls 22 Yearlings	Yearlings off by May 31
North Sheep and Sheep Pasture	July 16 th November 15 th	November 13 th	180 Cow/calf 16 Bulls	
Rock and Ellison	November 16 th February 15 th	TBD	180 Cow/calf 16 Bulls	

Monitoring:

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.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.



Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

Vegetative Use Guidelines:

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

Vegetation	Use Threshold
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks (if applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum
Annual Grasses	50% of current year's growth

Range Improvement Maintenance:

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2020 proposed range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
*Oak Creek Canyon	White Ridge Tank, Upper Cougar Tank	Clean Silt out of Tank	Requires on the ground visit by Forest Service Personnel prior to work beginning.
*Dry Creek	Upper Dry Creek Tank	Clean Silt out of Tank	Requires on the ground visit by Forest Service Personnel prior to work beginning.

***TANKS TO BE CLEANED:** THESE TANKS ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE CLEANED HOWEVER NO ROAD IMPROVEMENT TO ACCESS THE TANK IS AUTHORIZED THE BLADE CANNOT BE DROPPED UNTIL YOU REACH THE TANK. CLEANING OF THE TANK MUST BE WITHIN THE ORIGINAL FOOTPRINT OF THE TANK AND CANNOT BE EXPANDED. CLEANING OF WING DITCHES OR ADDITIONAL WORK TO ACCESS THE TANKS WILL BE AUTHORIZED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT PRIOR TO BRINGING EQUIPMENT ONTO THE FOREST OR FOR ADDITIONAL CLEARANCES THAT MAY BE REQUIRED.

Cherry Creek Pasture	Cherry Creek Well	Replace Storage tank and trough to existing water system, convert to Solar	Need site visit and review before any Authorization.
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Salting:

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

Supplements and Attractants

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

Supplemental Feeding:

No supplemental feeding is authorized.

Weeds

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

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hoskins, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (602) 225-5332.

Sincerely,



KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Ina Yazzie