

**2017 Annual Operating Instructions
Dugas Allotment**

Resource Objectives For This Grazing Season

Conditions are improved but the drought is still affecting vegetation and management as evidenced by the less than normal growth in Cottonwood last season. Perennial grasses and browse need close management in order to continue to recover from the drought effects. Livestock numbers will remain less than permitted to keep stocking in balance with currently available forage.

Water must be available for wildlife when cattle are not in a pasture so leave storage tanks and troughs full. To avoid damage to wells they do not have to be left on when cattle are removed from a pasture although we recommend you periodically check the availability of water and refill storage tanks and troughs. You have been attentive to this need and it is appreciated.

Authorization

Upon payment of fees livestock are authorized as follows for 2017

<u>Number of Livestock</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified)</u>
11 heifers	Dry	3/1-7/27
160 c/c	Cottonwood	3/1-4/27
11 Bulls	Reno	3/1-5/1
171 c/c & bulls	Reno	5/2-9/1
160 c/c	Yellowjacket	9/2- 11/01
160 c/c	Brown springs*	11/1- 2/28
12 bulls	Big sycamore	11/1- 2/28
8 horses	Holding pastures	yearlong

- Planning to burn Brown springs pasture in July so if that happens may have to re-plan using it in November.

The Forest Officer must be given actual use, by pasture, after livestock are off the allotment. Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if a week or two in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer promptly.

Move your livestock regardless of the date shown above, to avoid exceeding allowable use (utilization) levels

Allowable Use

The following is maximum allowable use: Uplands: *On palatable grasses*: 35% while actively growing, 50% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On shrubs*: browsing of 50% of available leaders. Riparian: *On palatable grasses and sedges*: 30% of the total weight available. *On shrubs*: browsing of 50% of available leaders. An average stubble height of 8" on tobosa must be left in Cottonwood and Yellowjacket Pastures for antelope cover. This measurement should be taken away from water in the middle of the grazed area.

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, no matter what the dates on paper are. Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.

Salt And Supplements

The thoughtful placement of salt, mineral, and protein is a valuable distribution aid. Salt will not be located in heavy use areas, including within ¼ mile of water. Instead, place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.

Range Improvements

Permittee Comments And Suggestions

Travel management-

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

Permit Conditions

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow 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. (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.)

APPROVED BY: Welli Spleers 2/13/17
District Ranger Date

AGREED TO BY: Trudy Bishemeyer 2-13-17
Permittee Date