



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: December 21, 2022

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Dutchwoman Allotment

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Dear

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The following are your 2023 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Dutchwoman 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 |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Lower Cactus | Current- January 9 th 2023 | January 16 th | 117 Cows 7 Bulls | |
| Jug and Apron | January 10 th March 15 th | March 22 nd | 117 Cows 7 Bulls | |
| Upper Cactus Butte | March 16 th May 31 st | June 7 th | 117 Cows | |
| Jojoba | March 16 th May 15 th | May 22 nd | 7 Bulls | Bulls only |
| Lake | June 1 st September 15 th | September 22 nd | 117 Cows 7 Bulls | |
| Lower Cactus Butte | September 16 th Next AOI | Next AOI | 117 Cows 7 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 2023 range proposed improvement projects.

| Pasture | Location | Description of Work | Clearances Needed |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Upper Cactus Butte | Upper Cactus Butte Spring | Add storage tank near the spring and look into diverting water at spring | Will need an Archeological and Biological Clearance as well as a Decision |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| | | | Memo prior to any work starting. |
| Upper and Lower Cactus Butte | Long Gulch Artesian | Construct pipeline from Long Gulch Artesian to Conway Corral to Rain Catch to Cactus Butte Spring | Will need an Archeological, Biological and Hydrology Clearance |
| Lake | Goose Fence | Rebuild fence | Archeological Clearance may be needed |

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 (480) 435-5563.

Sincerely,

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Jeremy Plain
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Crystal Martinez
Ina Yazzie