



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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Roosevelt, AZ 85545
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File Code: 2210

Date: December 15, 2023

Jared C. and Cassandra Lyman
Dutchwoman Allotment
410 W. Main St. Ste C
Payson AZ, 85541

Dear Jared and Cassandra:

The following are your 2024 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- December 31 st	January 23 rd	117 Cows 7 Bulls	
Jug and Apron	January 1 st March 15 th	March 25 th	117 Cows 7 Bulls	
Jojoba	January 7 th June 1 st	June 10 th	117 Cows 7 Bulls	Bulls only
Upper Cactus Butte	March 16 th June 1 st	June 10 th	117 Cows 7 Bulls	Cows only
Lake	June 2 nd September 10 th	September 18 th	117 Cows 7 Bulls	
Lower Cactus Butte	September 11 th 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
Cactus Butte	Lake Tank	Clean and repair dirt stock tank as needed	None – Access is on existing F.S. roads (Route #99)

Cactus Butte	South Cactus Tank	Clean and repair dirt stock tank as needed	None – Access is off of F.S. Road #99 using existing access route.
Cactus Butte	Cactus Butte Tank	Clean and repair dirt stock tank as needed	None - Access is by way of existing route reviewed and provided in attached map. The route is not a road and cannot be improved.
Cactus Butte	Unnamed tank (end of forest road 1760)	Clean and repair dirt stock tank as needed	None – Access is off of F.S. Road #1760 using existing access route.
Cactus Butte	Conway Tank	Clean and repair dirt stock tank as needed	None - Access is by way of existing route reviewed and provided in attached map. The route is not a road and cannot be improved.
Cactus Butte	Forest road #135 and a portion of forest road #179	Minor road maintenance to fix existing drainage issues to prevent further erosion and make them safer for use.	Work must be within the existing road prism and limited minor improvements just to help with making the road safe for travel.
Cactus Butte	Storage Tank	Add solar to tanks	None. Already existing infrastructure.
Cactus Butte	Corral at Tonto Basin/Dutchwoman W boundary	Add water trough and polypipe from storage tanks on Tonto Basin side	Hydrology, archeology possibly. Already existing infrastructure
Cactus Butte	Long Gulch Spring	Rebuild trap fence around spring	None. Maintenance of existing infrastructure.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Plain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy Plain
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Crystal Martinez
Ina Yazzie