

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**Fourr/Dragoon Allotments
2021 Grazing Year**

I. AUTHORIZED USE/ ROTATION SCHEDULE: The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the **Fourr** and **Dragoon** Allotments. Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached and time required to remove cattle.

Authorized Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Fourr	3/1/2021	6/30/2021	122		111				445	445
Fourr	5/1/2021	6/30/2021	61			11			26	22
Dragoon	7/1/2021	2/28/2022	243		111				887	887
Dragoon	7/1/2021	7/20/2021	20			11			9	7
Total									1367	1361

Non-Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Fourr										
Dragoon										
Total									0	0

Reason: N/A

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Lower Forest (Fourr)		3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61		111				223	223
Upper Forest (Fourr)		5/1/2021	6/30/2021	61		111	11			249	245
East (Dragoon)		7/1/2021	7/20/2021	20			11			9	7
East (Dragoon)		7/1/2021	8/31/2021	62		111				226	226
Far East (Dragoon)		9/1/2021	9/30/2021	30		111				109	109
Spc. Use/Stg. coach (Dragoon)		10/1/2021	12/15/2021	76		111				277	277
Southwest (Dragoon)		12/16/2021	2/28/2022	75		111				274	274
Applied For									1367	1361	
Permitted									1429	1429	
Non-Use											

NOTES:

The East and Far East pastures of the Dragoon allotment will be used during the growing season this year. These pastures will need to be rested next grazing season.

The authorized use for the Fourr Allotment represents full permitted season of use. The authorized use for the Dragoon allotment represents full permitted Animal Unit Months.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this office in advance. The pasture rotation is based on historic use as it was last year. However, the water systems have been greatly improved last year and hence this rotation, and the stocking rate in each pasture, will be dependent on both water availability as well as forage availability. Please make sure to keep accurate stocking and rotation records to modify future rotation plans in the future.

Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit, unless specifically mentioned in the rotation schedule.

Pasture rotation is designed to incorporate growing season rest or deferment to allow for grazed plant recovery. Pastures grazed during the summer growing season (July – September) will not be grazed during the growing season the following year.

This rotation schedule is dependent on climatic conditions and the availability of water. If favorable climatic conditions do not occur a change in rotation will be discussed with Douglas Range personnel and may be adjusted following the summer rains.

Due to the on-going severe drought we are all currently experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management on your allotment may be needed. Please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan and keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that may affect your allotment.

II. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS:

Utilization in all pastures is not to exceed 45% in the key areas. Please refer to your key area map. Herding and salting will be used to ensure allowable use is not exceeded. If allowable use is in danger of being exceeded, the cattle should be removed from that pasture until the range recovers. Salt and supplement will be placed appropriately, on good feed, at least ¼ mile from water and out of livestock concentration areas and more than 200 feet from roads. Salt and supplement locations should be rotated so as not to degrade a particular site. Salt blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, or roads. Blocks should be placed on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.

III. MONITORING:

The permittee will record actual use as it occurs, including livestock numbers and dates permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual operating instruction meeting. Common implementation monitoring includes forage production, forage utilization, photo points, condition of improvements, actual use and precipitation data.

IV. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE:

The Forest Service may spot check range improvements before the entry date to insure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed.

All troughs should have water when livestock are not present and be equipped so that small animals can safely enter and exit.

New range improvements and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated until proper archeological clearances have been obtained. When improvements are completed the permittee will inform District Range personnel to schedule an inspection. Before using machinery to clean any pond, the permittee is required to give the District Office at least 30 days advance notice so that the tank can be inspected for threatened or endangered species. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval by the District Ranger. Improvement schedule is dependent upon funding.

Since this is the second year you have had this allotment, and the second year in quite some time that many of these pastures have been stocked, we expect that you will encounter additional maintenance needs during the course of the season. Please contact district range personnel if you need additional material or if you have questions in this regard.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Road repair (Fourr/Dragoon)	Continuous	Repair and maintain authorized roads as needed for access (repair only within the margins of the existing road).	
	Fence Repair	Continous	General fence maintenance throughout the allotments	
	Water pipeline/152013, 152014, 152015 and 152023	2019	The entire pipeline system on the Dragoon allotment was replaced and buried by AZTech Contracting. This project was completed with Forest Service funding because of the Lizard Fire of 2017.	

	Water Tanks/152004, 152020, and 152011	2020	Stock tank #2, East Tank and Stock Dam were all reconstructed, cleaned out and lined with bentonite clay. This project was completed by Patagonia Excavating. This project was completed with Forest Service funding because of the Lizard fire of 2017.	
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Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	water projects (Fourr)	2020	Tank replacement at Cave Spring. FS will provide 5000 gallon Poly Tank for the replacement. Road into Cave Spring will require work within the prism of the existing roadbed in order for the tank to be placed.	
	Road repair (Fourr/Dragon)	Continuous	Repair and maintain authorized roads as needed for access (repair only within the margins of the existing road). You are authorized to repair NFS Road 698 and a portion of the road extending beyond Cave Spring #153005, pending approval from Douglas Range Staff during site visit.	
#153009	Water (Fourr)	2020	You are authorized to place salt/supplement in the bottom of Fourr Stock Tank #153009 in order to increase compaction from animal use for water retention.	
NFS 4232	Road	2020	Balanced with Forest Road priorities, the Coronado National Forest Road crew will attempt to repair NFS 4232.	
	Fence (Dragon)	2020	Rebuild/Repair approximately 1.0 mile of the western Forest Boundary Fence of the Special Use and Stage Coach Pasture. Forest Service will provide most of the materials required for this project.	
	Fence/Water Project	TBD	Forest Service will explore possibilities for placing a water lot around Cave Spring in order to assist with gathering cattle. This project may require NEPA analysis that must be completed prior to the initiation of any work.	
	Water (Dragon)	2021	Replace and/or repair as necessary, and reconnect the storage tanks and water troughs at the East Storage (152017) and the Far East Storage and Trough (152025). This project needs to be completed no later than 12/31/2021.	

V. REFUNDS AND CREDIT OF GRAZING FEES PAID (FSM 2238.11g)

Refunds will only be approved where the term grazing permit has been waived, the waiver of term grazing permit has been confirmed by the authorized officer, and a new permit issued to a qualified applicant indicated on the waiver of term grazing permit (FS-2200-12), or if a current permittee has applied for, and the authorized officer has approved, nonuse for which grazing fees have previously been paid.

Grazing fee credits will be approved when late entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the permittee for legitimate reasons and/or when delayed entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the authorized officer for reasons of resource protection. Credit for grazing fees will not be approved merely for the convenience of the permittee after the bill for collection is issued.

VI. PROTECTION:

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only. Please report all fires to the Tucson Interagency Fire Coordination Center at 1-800-549-0661.

VII. PERMIT CONDITIONS:

This Annual Operating Instruction is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to comply with 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. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

Keep this copy of the Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Ruppel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger