

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

**Fourr/Dragoon Allotments  
2024 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        | 3/1/2024 | 6/30/2024 | 122       |                  | 111      |            |         |       | 445         | 445         |
| Fourr        | 5/1/2024 | 6/30/2024 | 61        |                  |          | 11         |         |       | 26          | 22          |
| Dragoon      | 7/1/2024 | 2/28/2025 | 243       |                  | 111      |            |         |       | 887         | 887         |
| Dragoon      | 7/1/2024 | 7/20/2024 | 20        |                  |          | 11         |         |       | 9           | 7           |
| <b>Total</b> |          |           |           |                  |          |            |         |       | <b>1367</b> | <b>1361</b> |

**Non-Use**

| Allotment          | Date On | Date Off | # of Days | # of Cows w/calf | Dry Cows | # of Bulls | # Yrlng | Horse | AUMs     | HMs      |
|--------------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------------|----------|------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|
| Fourr              |         |          |           |                  |          |            |         |       |          |          |
| Dragoon            |         |          |           |                  |          |            |         |       |          |          |
| <b>Reason: N/A</b> |         |          |           |                  |          |            |         |       | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

**Proposed Rotation**

| Pasture                      | Acres in Pasture | Date On    | Date Off   | # of Days | # of Cows w/calf | Dry Cows | # of Bulls | # Yrlng | Horse       | AUMs        | HMs |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------------|----------|------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Far East (Dragoon)           |                  | 3/1/2024   | 4/30/2024  | 61        |                  | 111      |            |         |             | 223         | 223 |
| East (Dragoon)               |                  | 5/1/2024   | 6/30/2024  | 61        |                  | 111      | 11         |         |             | 249         | 245 |
| Southwest (Dragoon)          |                  | 7/1/2024   | 7/20/2024  | 20        |                  |          | 11         |         |             | 9           | 7   |
| Southwest (Dragoon)          |                  | 7/1/2024   | 8/31/2024  | 62        |                  | 111      |            |         |             | 226         | 226 |
| Sp. Use/Stg. coach (Dragoon) |                  | 9/1/2024   | 9/30/2024  | 30        |                  | 111      |            |         |             | 109         | 109 |
| Lower Forest (Fourr)         |                  | 10/1/2024  | 12/15/2024 | 76        |                  | 111      |            |         |             | 277         | 277 |
| Upper Forest (Fourr)         |                  | 12/16/2024 | 2/28/2025  | 75        |                  | 111      |            |         |             | 274         | 274 |
| <b>Applied For</b>           |                  |            |            |           |                  |          |            |         | <b>1367</b> | <b>1361</b> |     |
| <b>Permitted</b>             |                  |            |            |           |                  |          |            |         | <b>1429</b> | <b>1429</b> |     |
| <b>Non-Use</b>               |                  |            |            |           |                  |          |            |         |             |             |     |

**NOTES:**

Southwest Pasture of the Dragoon Allotment will need to be rested for the next growing 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.

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

Please keep in mind fall rotation is dependent on rain during the monsoon season and may need to be drastically changed to prevent resource damage from occurring.

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.

Please be sure to not exceed the permitted number of livestock.

## **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 ensure 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.

| <b>Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments</b> |                                |                        |   |                          |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Permit Mod #</b>                              | <b>Improvement Type / ID #</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> | <b>Description/Comments</b>                         | <b>Status Done /Date</b> |
|  | Fence Repair                   | Continuous             | General fence maintenance throughout the allotments |                          |
|  | Water development/152001       | 2023                   | Rebuilt storage tank                                |                          |
|  | Road                           | 2023                   | Road Brushing in Fourr                              |                          |

| <b>Current Year Improvement Schedule</b> |                                   |                        |   |                          |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Permit Mod #</b>                      | <b>Improvement Type / ID #</b>    | <b>Completion Date</b> | <b>Description/Comments</b>   | <b>Status Done /Date</b> |
|  | Water Development/ 152010, 152018 |                        | Replace two storage tanks along the dragoon spring pipeline #152014 in the southwest pasture  |                          |
|  | Water Development/Storage Tank    |                        | Replacing storage tank in East pasture and moving Current Tank to East Storage 152017   |                          |
|  | water projects (Fourr)            |                        | Tank replacement at Cave Spring. 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/Dragoon)       | 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. |                          |
|  | Water Project (Fourr)             |                        | Explore pipeline from big well all the way to trick tank  |                          |
|  | Water Project                     |                        | Block unauthorized off-road traffic on new pipelines on the Dragoon allotment. The Forest will complete this work.  |                          |
|  | Fence (Dragoon)                   |                        | Rebuild/Repair approximately 1.0 mile of the western Forest Boundary Fence of the Special Use and Stagecoach Pasture. Forest Service will provide most of the materials required for this project.  |                          |
|  | Fence                             |                        | Forest Service will explore possibilities of removing Special use pasture fence   |                          |
|  | Fence/Water Project               |                        | 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  |                          |
| #153009                                  | Water (Fourr)                     | Continuous             | 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.  |                          |

**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.

Management direction applies as specified in the September 27, 2019, Amended Biological Assessment for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program and the September 30, 2021, Biological Opinion on Ongoing Grazing on the Coronado National Forest.

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

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL  
District Ranger