

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

**Granite Springs Allotment
2021 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the **2021** grazing season for the **Granite Springs** allotment. The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

I. AUTHORIZED USE/ROTATION SCHEDULE:

Authorized Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Granite Springs	3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365	85					1020	1020
Granite Springs	3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365					2	29	24
Total									1049	1044

Non-Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Granite Springs	3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365	32					507	384
Granite Springs	3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365					1	14	12
Total									521	396

Reason: Range Improvement - Drought

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Middle		3/1/2021	3/20/2021	20	85					56	56
Horse		3/21/2021	5/31/2021	72	85					201	201
Windmill		6/1/2021	6/30/2021	30	85					84	84
Dirt Tank		7/1/2021	9/30/2021	92	85					257	257
Windmill		10/1/2021	11/15/2021	46	85					129	129
East		11/16/2021	2/28/2022	105	85					293	293
Horse		3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365					2	29	24
									Applied For	1049	1044
									Permitted	1447	1440
NOTES:									Non-Use	521	396
The Dirt Tank pasture is proposed to be used during the growing season this year. This pasture must not be used during the growing season (July, August or September) next year.											

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.

The reduced stocking is based on current conditions and lack of forage production due to the drought. If sufficient moisture and consequent forage regrowth occurs, a site visit may be conducted to determine if the remaining number of livestock, up to the full permitted numbers, can be placed on the allotment.

Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached and time required to remove cattle. If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this office in advance. 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.

It is understood that, during portions of May – September some of the cows will be culled and bulls will take their place. The dates for the horses are arbitrary, and it is understood that the horses will be in and out of the Horse pasture throughout the year.

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. Molasses roller tables that require delivery of the product with a vehicle are not authorized to be used on the Granite Springs allotment.

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. Please remember that all assigned range improvements will be maintained by the permittee. 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.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence		Repaired water gaps and general fence maintenance	
	Water Developments		Replaced floats at various locations across the allotment	
	Water Developments		Replaced solar panels that had been stolen	
	Fence/Road		Cleaned out cattleguards	
	Water Development/155015		Tenneco Well. The Forest Service installed a solar pumping station to provide constant livestock and wildlife water at this location	

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Water		Replace float troughs at various locations on the allotments	
	Water Dev/155015		Tenneco Well Storage. Tank needs an overflow pipe to prevent water from collecting adjacent to the tank	
	Water Dev/155025		China Camp Trick Tank repair. This improvement has been requested to be repaired for many years now. Please make this a priority.	
	Fence/155006		Gate from Middle Pasture to State pasture. This gate may be locked to discourage off-road travel.	Ongoing
	Fence/155006		Gate from Windmill Pasture to State pasture. This gate may be locked to discourage off-road travel.	Ongoing
	Fence/155006		Gate from Dirt Tank Pasture to State pasture. This gate may be locked to discourage off-road travel.	Ongoing

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,



DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger