

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

**Granite Springs Allotment  
2024 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the **2024** 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	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	365	117					1404	1404
Granite Springs	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	365					3	43	36
<b>Total</b>									<b>1447</b>	<b>1440</b>

**Non-Use**

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs	
Granite Springs											
Granite Springs											
<b>Reason:</b>									<b>Total</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
Middle		3/1/2024	5/31/2024	92		112	6			361	357
Horse		6/1/2024	6/30/2024	30		112	6		2	120	118
Windmill		7/1/2024	9/30/2024	92		118				357	357
Dirt Tank		10/1/2024	11/15/2024	46		118				178	178
East		11/16/2024	2/28/2025	105		118				407	407
									<b>Applied For</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>1418</b>
									<b>Permitted</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>1440</b>

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.

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 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 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. 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 ensure 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.

<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>
	Water Development 155015	2023	Tenneco Well Storage. Tank needs an overflow pipe to prevent water from collecting adjacent to the tank. Alternatively, a float switch may be installed to turn solar pump off when the tank is full.	3/2023
	Water Development/155017	2023	Replaced pipe and trough in east pasture.	10/2023
	Fence/155006	2023	Rebuild of ¼ mile of pasture boundary fence	
	Water Development	2023	Pipeline fixes	
	Cattleguard/Roadwork	2023	Fixed cattleguards and did roadwork	
	Fence	2023	General Fence Maintenance	

<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>
	Fence/155005		Gate from Middle Pasture to State pasture. This gate may be locked to discourage off-road travel.	Ongoing
	Fence/155005		Gate from Windmill Pasture to State pasture. This gate may be locked to discourage off-road travel.	Ongoing
	Fence/155005		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.

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