



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

28079 N HWY 188
Roosevelt, AZ 85545
Phone: 602.225.5395
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File Code: 2210

Date: January 23rd 2020

(b) (6)

Dear **(b) (6)**

The following are your 2020 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the H4 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 |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Cottonwood | January 1 st May 31 st | May 29 th | 125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses 20 yearlings | |
| Cane Springs | June 1 st September 31 st | September 25 th | 125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses | |
| Upper Slate Creek | October 1 st December 31 st | December 30 th | 125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses | |
| Lower Slate Creek | January 1 st 2021 Next AOI | TBD | 125 Cow/calf 10 Bulls 5 Horses | |

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 2020 proposed range improvement projects.

| Pasture | Location | Description of Work | Clearances Needed |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Cottonwood | Cottonwood Well | Convert to a solar pump | Clearances are complete |
| Upper Slate Creek | West end pasture next to highway 87 | Add a 15,000 gallon storage tank and pipeline to an | Work with District on finalizing improvement. |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | | existing water system that could be filled from hauling water to support existing water system | |
| Cane Springs | Gold Tooth Smitty | Add storage tank, pipeline and water troughs | Project has been approved |

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, Range Management Specialist, at (602) 225-5332.

Sincerely,

KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Ina Yazzie

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|--|-----------|-------------|
| LIVESTOCK GRAZING PERMIT - MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS | ALLOTMENT | H4 - Walnut |
| | PERMITTEE | (b) (6) |

(b) (6) has requested a livestock rotation modification for the 2020 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI), as stated below.

SECTION A: AOI LIVESTOCK ROTATION MODIFICATION

Livestock Management Schedule:

a. Provide all pasture modifications, through 02/28/21. Only insert permitted numbers or less. Any request for increased numbers, contact your district office.

| Pasture | Date In | Date Out | Numbers |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Haystack on the Walnut Allotment | November 21 st | March 15 th | 24 Cows 1 Bull |
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b. Provide explanation for reason modification above is requested:

Due to the Bush fire that has impacted most of the H4 allotment. Some of the livestock will be authorized to graze on the Walnut Allotment in the Haystack Pasture. Good annual forage production along with additional water development has created additional capacity than is currently being run on the Walnut Allotment which is still running under permitted numbers even with this addition. Current inspections show good management and proper stocking conditions on the Walnut Allotment that would be consistent with this small increase even with the current drought.

SECTION A: AOI LIVESTOCK ROTATION MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATION

To be completed by Forest Official:

- a. Approved
- b. Approved with conditions as stipulated:
- c. Not approved with explanation:

Walnut Allotment Permittee has been consulted and agrees with this AOI modification:

(b) (6) O-C Ranch 11/19/2020

Walnut Permittee: (b) (6)

11/20/2020

Forest Official

Date