



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

28079 N HWY 188
Roosevelt, AZ 85545
Phone: 602.225.5395
Fax: 602.225.5354

File Code: 2210

Date: February 1st 2021

(b) (6)

Dear **(b) (6)**

The following are your 2021 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
Gans Hole and Benches Campaign Allotment	January 1 st March 15 th	March 10 th	85 Cows	Additional Capacity from good winter rains and annual growth in this area.
Haystack, Walnut Allotment	January 1 st March 15 th	March 11 th	25 Cows	Additional Capacity from good winter rains and annual growth in this area.
Highway/Center Schoolhouse Allotment	January 1 st March 15 th	March 10 th	20 Cows	Additional Capacity from good winter rains and annual growth in this area.
Cane Springs or Cottonwood Pasture	March 15 th May 31 st	March 11 th and June 3 rd	130 Cows	Depending on regrowth and range readiness. Cattle moved to Flagstaff June 1 st



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 2021 proposed range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Multiple	Multiple	Repair improvements damaged by Bush Fire	Work is authorized within same footprint of existing improvement.
Upper Slate Creek	West end pasture next to highway 87	Add a 15,000 gallon storage tank and pipeline to an existing water system that could be filled from hauling water to support existing water system	Work with District on finalizing improvement.
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 (480) 435-5563.

Sincerely,


KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Crystal Martinez
Ina Yazzie

LIVESTOCK GRAZING PERMIT – MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS	ALLOTMENT	H4 Allotment
	PERMITTEE	(b) (6)

(b) (6) has requested a livestock rotation modification for their 2021 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
Monument Pasture (Schoolhouse Allotment)	June 1 st	July 1 st	20 head
Lake Pasture (Schoolhouse Allotment)	July 1 st	September 30 th	20 head
Schoolhouse Pasture (Schoolhouse Allotment)	November 1 st	November 30 th	20 head
Cottonwood Pasture	October 1 st	December 31 st	*New Bill will be issued prior to this time once conditions are assessed and cattle are brought back onto the Allotment from Flagstaff.

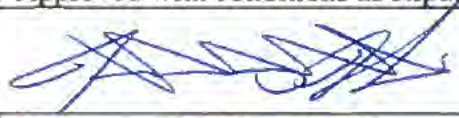
b. Provide explanation for reason modification above is requested:

Due to the Bush fire the H4 Allotment is being rested. Additional capacity is still available on the Schoolhouse allotment from 2 years of good spring rains and high annual grass growth during that time. Inspections by Range specialists have inspected and concurred with this assessment of the Schoolhouse allotment.

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:

 6/23/21

Forest Official

Date