

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

**Halfmoon Allotment  
2021 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2021 grazing season for the **Halfmoon** allotment

**I. AUTHORIZED USE/ ROTATION SCHEDULE:** Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached and time required to remove cattle.

	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
<b>Authorized Use</b>	3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365	0						
<b>Total</b>										

<b>Non-Use</b>	3/1/2021	2/28/2022	365	63					756	756	
<b>Reason: Personal Convenience</b>									<b>Total</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>756</b>

**Proposed Rotation**

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs

Due to Mr. Clyne's passing, Legacy Land and Cattle Co., LLC has been authorized non-use for personal convenience.

Also, due to the damage of several range improvements by the 2017 Lizard Fire, this allotment still remains unable to be stocked due to the lack of functioning critical range improvements. Many of the damaged improvements have been repaired or replaced, but several key improvements still need attention. Once the items listed in the improvements section below are rectified, Douglas Range Staff personnel will perform a range readiness review prior to restocking.

**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 insure 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.

A range readiness inspection was conducted on October 29, 2020, and it was determined that several items need to be remedied before the allotment can be stocked. Those items are listed below:

##### **Range Readiness**

In order for the Halfmoon allotment to be considered ready for livestock to be stocked, the following items **must** be addressed:

- The cattleguards, all located on NFSR 795 at the intersections of the Forest boundary/Baptist Trap fence, South pasture/Middle pasture fence near Mesquite Tank and the Middle pasture/Big pasture fence need to be cleaned out to prevent livestock from crossing. The gates adjacent to these cattleguards need to be closed and/or reconstructed as well.
- The Forest boundary fence in the South and Middle pastures needs to be maintained, especially in the water gaps and the user-created gates.
- Reconstruct the stretch of Forest boundary fence (approximately ¼ mile) that runs east-west on the north end of the North pasture. If a sufficient number of posts are left over from the new fence construction in the Middle pasture, then these can be used for this project, upon Forest Service approval.
- Repair or otherwise remedy the cause of Mine Spring Storage and trough being empty. This is an important wildlife and livestock water source.
- Repair, seal or replace the trough at Halfmoon Well Storage to prevent leaks.

##### **Recommendations**

In addition to the above items, the following needs to be addressed in a timely fashion, but isn't required to be completed before stocking the allotment at this time:

- Install dead-men in the low sections of the newly constructed fence section of the Forest boundary fence.

- Inform the Forest Service on the location of the un-used new posts that were provided for the new fence reconstruction.
- Raise the float level of the trough at John’s Well to utilize the full capacity of the trough. Also, ensure the trough has a wildlife escape ramp installed.
- Remove all of the old, unused pipeline from the Forest where new pipe has been installed.
- Install a wildlife escape ramp in the trough at Mesquite Tank, and any other trough on the allotment that doesn’t currently have a ramp installed.

<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>
			New solar pumping plant at John’s Well	
			New solar pumping plant at Twin Tanks	
			New pipeline from John’s Well to Twin Tanks	
			New pipeline from Twin Tanks to Mine Spring Tank	
			New pipeline from Mine Spring Tank to Halfmoon Well Storage	
			Mesquite Tank was cleaned out, reconstructed and lined with bentonite using an IDIQ contractor. FS funded this project	
			Limestone (aka Rattlesnake) Tank was cleaned out, reconstructed and lined with bentonite using an IDIQ contractor. FS funded this project	
			Marble Tank was cleaned out, reconstructed and lined with bentonite using an IDIQ contractor. FS funded this project	
			Stock Tank #4 was cleaned out, reconstructed and lined with bentonite using an IDIQ contractor. FS funded this project	

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
See items in bulleted list, above				

**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 a copy of these Annual Operating Instructions for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL  
District Ranger