



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payson
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 27, 2021

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

This Annual Operating Instruction is a guide for management of the **Hardscrabble Allotment** for the **2021 grazing year**. This plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your 2020 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the **Hardscrabble Allotment** as per Term Grazing Permit #12162 issued to (b) (6)

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	MATURE COW	140	3/1 - 2/28

II. AUTHORIZED USE

The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the **Hardscrabble Allotment** this year.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	COWS	125	3/1 - 2/28
CATTLE	BULLS	10	3/1 - 2/28
HORSES	HORSE	5	3/1 - 2/28

III. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Actual dates may vary depending upon climatic conditions, drought, wildfire, noxious weeds, soil, and range conditions, conflicts with or for protection of wildlife, water availability, utilization levels and time required to move livestock. Any deviation from this schedule should be discussed with Payson range staff prior to moving your cattle outside of the dates listed. Estimates of forage utilization will be performed and documented on pastures about the time the pasture is vacated.



AUTHORIZED PASTURE	CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	PROPOSED NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
WALNUT	COW BULL	125 10	3/1 - 5/31
UA	COW BULL	125 10	6/1 - 7/15
PINE RIDGE	COW BULL	125 10	7/16 - 10/31
BUTTON FLAT	COW BULL	125 10	11/1 - 12/31
ROCK CREEK	COW BULL	125 10	1/1 - 2/28
BUTTON FLAT	COW BULL	125 10	LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER FOR GATHER AND BRAND OPS
HORSE	HORSE	5	3/1 - 2/28

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21.

Grazing will be managed so that conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term. Considerable research has been done showing that conservative use levels will allow for sustaining and improving watershed conditions. Conservative utilization levels are as follows:

Upland	Herbaceous:	30-40% of current year's growth
	Woody:	50% of current year's growth
Riparian	Herbaceous:	40% of plant species biomass (any species) and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on Deergrass
	Woody:	50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6 feet tall
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (Where Applicable)	20% optimum to 40% maximum Management Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in the Tonto NF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13).	

Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season, in key areas¹ for key forage species². However, grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season in order to practice proactive management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. Utilization measurements serve as only one piece of information that is considered when evaluating the effectiveness of allotment management. Utilization data will be coupled with other information such as vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, and long-term trends, in order to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

V. MONITORING

Monitoring dates are tentative, and some may not be required. Range personnel from the Payson District may be contacting you prior to monitoring visits. We encourage your participation in these inspections, as it provides an opportune time to discuss resource conditions and management items. VGS Monitoring may be conducted in the fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

The table below indicates the records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit. The permittee must hold ownership of the corporation (if applicable), deed for the base property, and brand associated with that permit for the entire term of the permit. Any undocumented changes in ownership are a violation of the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit under Part 2, Sec. 7.

Entity/Person(s) Designated as Permittee	(b) (6)	
Base Property	Deed Held By (b) (6)	Parcels located in Gila County, AZ (b) (6)
Brand	(b) (4)	EXPIRED: June 15, 2016 ³
	(b) (4)	EXPIRED: July 15, 2020 ³

We request that you maintain records that reveal the number of livestock, date of entry, and the date of livestock leaving each pasture and submit them to us at the end of the grazing season.

¹ Key areas are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as being ¼ to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing.

² Key forage species are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as plants chosen to be appropriate to monitor average allowable use.

³ Please send a current copy of this brand certificate as soon as possible if you intend on using it.

VII. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Salting may be used to aid in livestock distribution and management. Salting must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

The permittee shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the Forest Officer in charge of the allotment.

Hardscrabble Allotment improvement work scheduled			2021
Permit Modification Number	Description	Work Period	Comments
NA	Horse Pasture Tank Water Trap	Current	Will need heritage clearance if new construction

Cleaning these tanks requires adherence to special instructions. These instructions must be strictly followed to ensure compliance with the regulations of Wilderness management. Failure to comply may result in action taken against your permit.

The following are specific instructions for this project regarding personnel, equipment, and access:

- A rubber tire or track mounted bulldozer (size D4 or smaller), small rubber tire backhoe loader, or mini track mounted excavator will be used to do the tank cleaning work.
- Equipment will be:
 - Thoroughly washed to be free of weeds before and after service.
 - Driven into the wilderness to reach project area (may not be trailered)
 - Closely monitored for leaks and spills.
 - When not in use, parked within the previously disturbed footprint of the tank.
 - Equipment is authorized for a single trip into and out of the wilderness. Multiple trips are not authorized.
- UTVs may be used to transport fuel for the equipment. UTVs may make multiple trips to transport fuel.
- Only existing routes (roads) will be used for access. NO cross-country travel is authorized.
 - When traveling, you may NOT improve road conditions along the way.
- Use of chainsaws is NOT authorized.
- Personnel:
 - Will travel by foot or horseback to the project areas.
 - May NOT use UTVs to shuttle to the project areas.
 - May make camp at several sites while work is being completed.
 - Will practice Leave No Trace principals.
- A fire-guard will be on site at all times during equipment operation if work is being completed during fire restrictions.

When cleaning the tanks:

- All work must be confined to existing footprint of the tank areas.
- Tank maintenance may consist of cleaning the tank basin and bar ditches, reconstruction of the dam, and/or re-establishment of the spillway.
- Bentonite may be worked into soil of the tank in order to bind soil for increased tank effectiveness.

The Forest Service may inspect the project while work is underway, and after completion to verify compliance. If you have any questions about the instructions given in this letter, please contact Range Staff Jeff Sturla (928-474-7908) before starting work.

IX. 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.

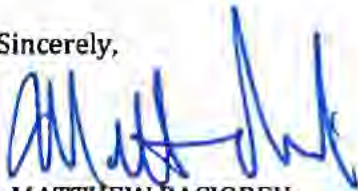
X. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity.

XI. PERMIT CONDITIONS

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.

Sincerely,



MATTHEW PACIOREK

District Ranger