



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payson
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210 /2230

Date: February 27, 2024

William F. & Lori L. Brown
49831 N. Hwy 188, MP 268
Payson, AZ 85541

Dear Lori & Bill:

This Annual Operating Instruction is a guide for management of the **Hardscrabble Allotment** for the **2024 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 2023 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 #12269 issued to William F. & Lori L. Brown.

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	100	3/1 - 2/28
CATTLE	BULLS	8	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
WHITE ROCK	COW BULL	100 8	3/1 – 3/31
WALNUT	COW BULL	100 8	4/1 – 5/31
UA	COW BULL	100 8	6/1 – 7/15
PINE RIDGE	COW BULL	100 8	7/16 – 10/31
BUTTON FLAT	COW BULL	100 8	11/1 – 12/31
ROCK CREEK	COW BULL	100 8	1/1 – 2/28
BUTTON FLAT	COW BULL	100 8	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	William F. & Lori L. Brown		
Base Property	(b) (4)		
Brand	Owner: Bill and Lori Brown	#6985 EXPIRES: July 15, 2025	(b) (4)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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