



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Payson
Ranger
District

1009 E. Hwy 260
Payson, AZ 85541
Phone: 928-474-7900
Fax: 928-474-7999

File Code: 2210/2230
Date: March 27, 2025

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 & Deadman Mesa allotments** for the **2025 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 any previous AOIs for these allotments.

I. PERMITTED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the following allotments as per Term Grazing Permit #12284 issued to The William & Lori Brown Family Trust.

Hardscrabble Allotment

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

Deadman Mesa Allotment

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	MATURE COW	175	10/21 - 5/31

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	215	3/1 - 5/31; 11/1 - 2/28
CATTLE	BULLS	19	3/1 - 5/31; 11/1 - 2/28
HORSES	HORSE	5	3/1 - 5/31; 11/1 - 2/28

**Permittee will be using the allotment seasonally in conjunction with another allotment on the Coconino NF. Cattle are removed on May 31st. Using the allotment seasonally with the above numbers still lies within the permitted use and within the scope of the Allotment Management Plan.*

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

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
CATTLE	MATURE COW	175	3/1 - 5/31; 11/1 - 2/28



III. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Actual dates may vary depending upon climatic conditions, 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.

Hardscrabble Allotment:

AUTHORIZED PASTURE	CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
ROCK CREEK	COW	215	3/1 - 3/31
WHITE ROCK	BULL	19	
WALNUT	COW	215	4/1 - 5/31
	BULL	19	
PINE RIDGE	COW	215	11/1 - 11/31
	BULL	19	
NATURAL BRIDGE, WALNUT, WILDERNESS	COW	215	12/1 - 1/31
	BULL	19	
ROCK CREEK	COW	215	2/1 - 2/28
	BULL	19	
HORSE	HORSE	5	3/1 - 5/31; 11/1 - 2/28

Deadman Mesa Allotment:

AUTHORIZED PASTURE	CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE
MIDDLE MESA	COW	175	3/1 - 3/31
LOWER MESA	COW	175	4/1 - 4/30
UPPER MESA	COW	175	5/1 - 5/31
GUS, HEADQUARTERS	COW	175	10/21 - 11/22
UPPER MESA	COW	175	11/22 - 12/22
MIDDLE MESA	COW	175	12/23 - 1/15
LOWER MESA	COW	175	1/16 - 2/15
MIDDLE MESA	COW	175	2/15 - 2/28
HARDSCRABBLE	COW	UP TO 30 ANIMALS	Not to exceed 3 months
NASH POINT PASTURE	HORSES OR BULLS	UP TO 12 ANIMALS	Not to exceed 1 month

*CATTLE WILL BE TRAILED THROUGH MIDDLE MESA WHEN MOVING FROM LOWER MESA TO UPPER MESA IN THE SPRING

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	The William & Lori Brown Family Trust
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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.

Base Property	Deed Held By: The William & Lori Brown Family Trust, Parcel(s) located in Gila County, AZ (as described in the 2230 file)	
Brand	Owner: The William & Lori Brown Family Trust #6985 Expires: July 15, 2025	

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.

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,


Jason McInteer
Deputy District Ranger