

**2023
Annual Operating Instructions
Hassayampa Allotment**

This document serves as your 2023 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Hassayampa Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual stocking level (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking level is based on current and expected forage production. The planned use period in a pasture and livestock numbers can/should be adjusted if conditions change, either (shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability but not in excess of the permitted numbers and utilization in key areas).

*Any changes from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance and will be made only with prior written Forest Service Officer Approval. (An Amendment)

*If emergency conditions require making an immediate change, notify the Forest Service Officer promptly.

Authorization

Upon payment of fees, the following is the planned grazing sequence:

Number of Livestock	Pasture	Grazing Period
100	Quartz Orofino Root Plows	Nov 1 – Dec 31
100	Middle Water	Jan 1 – Feb 15
100	Carter	Feb 16 – March 31

RESOURCE MONITORING

Allowable Use

The following is maximum allowable use to fit within the Endangered Species Framework for the Yellow-billed cuckoo:

Uplands: *On key grass species:* > 40% Measured at the end of the season. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On key shrub species:* browsing of 50-60%.

Riparian: *On palatable grasses and sedges:* 8" stubble height on deergrass. 4" on Sedges and Juncus species. *On shrubs:* up to 20% use by weight; or less than 40% of terminal leaders browsed on woody species less than 6 ft tall.

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, no matter what the dates on paper are. Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.

The permittee is encouraged to participate in the allotment Monitoring process.

Actual Use

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the grazing year: 1) Pasture; 2) Actual Grazing Period; 3) Actual Livestock Numbers.

***It is very important that this Actual Use form be completed and submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the grazing year.**

RESOURCE OBJECTIVES for THIS GRAZING SEASON

Proper livestock management practices, e.g. distribution, timing of grazing, and intensity of grazing, must be managed closely to provide for plant maintenance, improved vigor, and maintenance/improvement of vegetative ground cover. When cattle are not in a pasture, ensure water is available for wildlife and escape ramps are in place on troughs.

SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; (See AMP and Term Grazing Permit for the complete list of the guidelines.) Place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Projects:

Clean – stock tanks: Wilhoit, Root Plow, Orofino, Riggle and Miners. Bentonite as needed.

Discuss with RMS and Arizona Mule Deer Organization (AMDO) if bentonite is needed.

Rebuild River holding in Carter Pasture, contact RMS for materials prior to starting.

Install tire trough on fence between Middlewater and Orofino units. Remove range infrastructure not being utilized i.e. fence, dilapidated wooden corral, plastic in cement drinker. FS will supply tire drinker. /

Clean up area of Middlewater well, maintain flooded corral.

Planned for GY 2024

Remove fence between Upper and Lower Root plow.

Remove or maintain Upper Orofino waterlot/corrals.

Remove old well material in Carter unit.

Collin Spring and enclosure.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed

our area in a *Moderate* drought. It was agreed that due to the above factors as well as that with the current precipitation conditions and the fact that there was abundant forage left over at the end of the growing season the livestock numbers would remain at the numbers in the above chart unless the allotment moves into a negative drought status.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

PERMIT CONDITIONS

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow 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 (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit).

ACCEPTED BY:



Permittee

9/25/23

Date

APPROVED BY:



Sarah Clawson, District Ranger

9/25/23

Date