

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT  
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST  
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)  
Horseshoe and Portal Peak Allotments  
2021 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2021** grazing season for the **Horseshoe and Portal Peak** allotments. The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

**I. AUTHORIZED USE and ROTATION SCHEDULE:** The annual validation of your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

**Authorized Use**

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Horseshoe	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	168		7			462	351
Horseshoe	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	168		7			908	690
Portal Peak	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	92		5			256	195
Portal Peak	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	92		5			503	383
<b>Total</b>									<b>2128</b>	<b>1619</b>

**Non-Use**

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Horseshoe	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	25					66	50
Portal Peak	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	25					130	99
Horseshoe	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	18					48	36
Portal Peak	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	18					94	71
<b>Total</b>									<b>338</b>	<b>256</b>

Reason for Non-Use: Range Improvement due to drought

**Proposed Rotation**

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
<b>Horseshoe Allotment</b>											
Upper Horseshoe		3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	168		7			462	351
Off Forest		5/1/2021	10/31/2021	184							
Lower Horseshoe		11/1/2021	11/30/2021	30	168		7			227	173
Middle Horseshoe		12/1/2021	12/31/2021	31	168		7			235	178
Red Hill/North Fork		1/1/2022	2/28/2022	59	168		7			446	339
<b>Portal Peak Allotment</b>											
Sulphur Draw		3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	60		3			166	126
Cienega/Sanford		3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	32		2			90	68
Off Forest		5/1/2021	10/31/2021	184							
Sulphur Draw		11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	60		3			327	249
Cienega/Sanford		11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	32		2			176	134
									<b>Applied For</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>1619</b>
									<b>Permitted</b>	<b>2482</b>	<b>1880</b>
									<b>Non-Use</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>256</b>

This rotation schedule is dependent on climatic conditions and the availability of water. If favorable climatic conditions do not occur a change in rotation will be discussed with Douglas Range personnel and may be adjusted following the summer rains.

The reduced stocking is based on current conditions and lack of forage production due to the drought. If sufficient moisture and consequent forage regrowth occurs, a site visit may be conducted to determine if the remaining number of livestock, up to the full permitted numbers, can be placed on the allotment. Special Authorization Use Periods are permitted this grazing season with the understanding that all on and off dates are strictly adhered to.



Term Grazing Permits are required to be stocked to 90% of capacity each grazing season, unless either Personal Convenience or Range Improvement Non-Use has been approved. Personal Convenience Non-Use may be taken for no more than 3 years consecutively and not more than 4 years out of any ten year period.

Rotation schedule dates may vary, dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached and time required to remove cattle.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this office in advance. The pasture rotation and the stocking rate in each pasture will be dependent on both water availability as well as forage availability. The distribution of livestock in the pastures should be monitored closely to ensure appropriate distribution and utilization levels. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit, unless specifically mentioned in the rotation schedule.

Due to the on-going severe drought we are all currently experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management on your allotment may be needed. Please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan and keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that may affect your allotment.

## **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.

<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>
	Water #118025	Jan 2020	Install new solar pump and solar panels at Sunshine Well	Done
	Fence (Horseshoe)	2020	Replaced fences #118017, 118022, 118013 on the Horseshoe Allotment. FS provided 1.0 mile of fence materials for this project .	
	Road	2020	Repair NFS Road 314 to Sunshine Well as well	
	Water #163011	2020	Repaired and maintained Sulphur Spring, and replaced the pipeline	

<b>Current Year Improvement Schedule</b>				
<b>Permit Mod #</b>	<b>Improvement Type / ID #</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Description/Comments</b>	<b>Status Done /Date</b>
	Road		Repair NFS Road 685 to North Fork Dam	
	Fence (Horseshoe)		Replace fence #118026 on the Horseshoe Allotment. FS will provide fence materials for this project .	
	Fence (Portal Peak)		Replace fence #113003 on the Portal Peak Allotment. FS will provide 0.75 miles of fence material for this project .	

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Ruppel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DOUG RUPPEL  
District Ranger