

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**Horseshoe and Portal Peak Allotments
2023 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2023** 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 | # Yrling | Horse | AUMs | HMs |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| Horseshoe | 3/1/2023 | 4/30/2023 | 61 | 188 | | 9 | | | 399 | 395 |
| Horseshoe | 11/1/2023 | 2/29/2024 | 121 | 188 | | 9 | | | 791 | 784 |
| Portal Peak | 3/1/2023 | 4/30/2023 | 61 | 108 | | 5 | | | 229 | 227 |
| Portal Peak | 11/1/2023 | 2/28/2024 | 120 | 108 | | 5 | | | 450 | 446 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | 1868 | 1851 |

Proposed Rotation

| Pasture | Acres in Pasture | Date On | Date Off | # of Days | # of Cows w/calf | Dry Cows | # of Bulls | # Yrling | Horse | AUMs | HMs |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------|----------|------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Horseshoe Allotment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Middle Horseshoe | | 3/1/2023 | 3/31/2023 | 31 | 188 | | 9 | | | 203 | 201 |
| Lower Horseshoe | | 4/1/2023 | 4/30/2023 | 30 | 188 | | 9 | | | 196 | 194 |
| Off Forest | | 5/1/2023 | 10/31/2023 | 184 | | | | | | | |
| Upper Horseshoe | | 11/1/2023 | 12/31/2023 | 61 | 188 | | 9 | | | 399 | 395 |
| Red Hill/North Fork | | 1/1/2024 | 2/28/2024 | 59 | 188 | | 9 | | | 386 | 382 |
| Portal Peak Allotment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sulphur Draw | | 3/1/2023 | 4/30/2023 | 61 | 70 | | 3 | | | 148 | 146 |
| Cienega/Sanford | | 3/1/2023 | 4/30/2023 | 61 | 38 | | 2 | | | 81 | 80 |
| Off Forest | | 5/1/2023 | 10/31/2023 | 184 | | | | | | | |
| Sulphur Draw | | 11/1/2023 | 2/29/2024 | 121 | 70 | | 3 | | | 293 | 290 |
| Cienega/Sanford | | 11/1/2023 | 2/29/2024 | 121 | 38 | | 2 | | | 161 | 159 |
| | | | | | | | | | Applied For | 1,865 | 1848 |
| | | | | | | | | | Permitted | 1992 | 1992 |

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 severe drought during the summer of 2020 we all experienced in this region, changes to various types of management were needed in most cases. Although most locations had abundant moisture during the monsoon seasons of 2021 and 2022, there may be lasting effects of



drought that are impacting your allotment. Please keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that affect your allotment, and please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan.

Please be sure to not exceed the permitted number of livestock.

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.

| Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Permit Mod # | Improvement Type / ID # | Completion Date | Description/Comments | Status Done /Date |
| | Fence (Horseshoe) 118023 | Oct 2022 | Replaced fence #118023 on the Horseshoe Allotment. FS provided fence materials for this project . | Done |
| | Roads | | Maintained Roads | Ongoing |

| Current Year Improvement Schedule | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Permit Mod # | Improvement Type / ID # | Completion Date | Description/Comments | Status Done /Date |
| | Fence (Portal Peak) | | Replace fence #113003 on the Portal Peak Allotment. FS will provide 0.75 miles of fence material for this project . | |
| | Pipeline | | Run Pipeline from Horseshoe Well to North fork pasture. The pipe will be provided by Forest Service. This project is pending approval by the District Ranger. | |

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.

Management direction applies as specified in the September 27, 2019 Amended Biological Assessment for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program and the September 30, 2021 Biological Opinion on Ongoing Grazing on the Coronado National Forest.

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

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger