

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Hunt Canyon and Pedregosa Allotments
2024 Grazing Year**

The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

I and II. AUTHORIZED USE/ROTATION SCHEDULE: Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached, and time required to remove cattle.

Authorized Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Hunt Canyon	3/1/2024	7/31/2024	153	99		8			546	538
Hunt Canyon	8/1/2024	2/28/2025	212	154		8			1140	1129
Hunt Canyon	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	365					6	86	72
Pedregosa	5/16/2024	12/29/2024	228	80		6			654	645
Pedregosa	8/1/2024	12/29/2024	151	130		6			681	675
Pedregosa										
Total									3108	3059

Non-Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Hunt Canyon	3/1/2024	7/31/2024	153	55					277	277
Pedregosa	5/16/2024	7/31/2024	77	116					294	294
Total									570	570

Reason: Resource Protection

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Pedregosa										
Off Forest (State Land)	3/1/2024	5/15/2024	76							
Half Moon	5/16/2024	8/1/2024	78	80		6			224	221
Indian Creek	8/2/2024	10/15/2024	75	80		6			215	212
Buck Creek	10/16/2024	12/29/2024	75	80		6			215	212
Off Forest (State Land)	12/30/2024	2/28/2025	61							
Hunt Canyon										
Doane	3/1/2024	5/15/2024	76	49		4			134	132
High Lonesome	3/1/2024	5/15/2024	76	50		4			137	135
Bruno	5/16/2024	8/15/2024	92	99		8			328	324
Johns	8/16/2024	10/15/2024	61	135		8			290	287
Deer Mtn./House	10/16/2024	12/27/2024	73	135		8			347	343
Doane	12/28/2024	2/28/2025	63	135		8			300	296
Horse	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	365					6	86	72
Applied For									2276	2234
Permitted									4953	4200
Non-Use									570	570



Livestock rotation will occur as listed in the table above if conditions allow. The described rotation plan is completely dependent on water availability and sufficient forage availability and is subject to change greatly throughout the grazing year. If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify the office in advance. 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.

Up to six horses will be kept in the Horse pasture of the Hunt Canyon allotment, but most likely won't remain there for the entire year.

It is understood that, due to persistent drought conditions and the poor condition most of the range improvements are in on the Pedregosa allotment, validation of the full permitted 196 head may take several years.

Due to the ongoing drought we all are experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management are needed in most cases. 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 keep in mind fall rotation is dependent on rain during the monsoon season and may need to be drastically changed to prevent resource damage from occurring.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

V. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE:

Many of the range improvements on the Pedregosa allotment are in need of repair or replacement. Also, much of the allotment management is contingent on the adjacent private and state land improvements that are also in disrepair. Your list of proposed improvement

maintenance will be filed with this AOI and kept as a record of your proposed improvement work.

You have also mentioned several improvements that you intend to work on the Hunt Canyon allotment. These are summarized below:

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Hunt Canyon/Water Development	2023	Reconstruct the Saner spring box and install a new sediment filter to prevent sand from accumulating in the plumbing downstream. Install 3000 gallon storage and trough. New Submersible pump at Saner Spring water development.	Done
	Pedregosa/Water Development	2023	Pipeline from private land headquarters well 2 miles routed to Cox Place private land. 10000-gallon water storage and trough at cox place.	Done
	Pedregosa/Fence/125008		Repaired 2 miles of forest boundary fence in Buck Creek Pasture.	Ongoing

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Pedregosa/Water Development		Expansion of pipelines potentially	
	Pedregosa/Water Development		Pipeline from headquarters to soon to be installed private water lot on the SE end of Halfmoon allowing cow to water there.	
	Pedregosa/Water Development		High Lonesome spring development	

	Pedregosa/Water Development		Investigate Halfmoon well. If made working, install pipeline to Indian creek pasture with trough at the end. Install trough halfway down pipeline. Install ¾ mile of pie to SW corner of High Lonesome Pasture. Install 1500-gallon storage with booster pump feed 10000-gallon storage between halfmoon and buck creek. Install pipeline to trough on N end of Buck Creek pasture and to trough SE end of High Lonesome	
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The Forest Service may spot check range improvements before the entry date to ensure 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. Improvement schedule is dependent upon funding.

VI. 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 the Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.
Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger