

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

**Lower Rock Creek Allotment
2024 Grazing Year**

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

I & 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	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Lower Rock Creek	9/1/2024	10/19/2024	49		80				129	129
	1/10/2025	1/24/2025	15		80				39	39
	1/25/2025	2/28/2025	35		160				184	184
Total									352	352

Non-Use

Reason: N/A. More numbers than permitted for shorter time									Total	

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Witch Creek	9/1/2024	10/19/2024	49		80				129	129
Fife Mile	1/10/2025	2/28/2025	50		80				132	132
Rock Creek	1/25/2025	2/28/2025	35		80				92	92
Grey cells are calculated fields White cells are editable								Applied For	352	352
								Permitted	397	301
								Non-Use	0	0

The use of the Witch Creek pasture is dependent entirely on available livestock water. If an exorbitantly wet spring allows for the cattle to be stocked in the pasture, please consider that option but notify the Range Staff beforehand so we can make the necessary adjustments in billing.

When cattle are placed in the Rock Creek pasture, please ensure livestock distribution is adequate. Prevent the cattle from concentrating in the bottom of the canyon, especially the west end of the pasture. If use on the key area in that portion of the pasture is close to being exceeded, please either move the livestock to the next pasture or remove them from the allotment. If cattle won't stay in the Fife Mile pasture, please notify the Range Staff. Fence modification may be necessary for the cattle to be contained.

Pasture rotation is designed to incorporate growing season rest or deferment to allow for grazed plant recovery. Pastures grazed during the summer growing season will not be grazed during the growing season the following year.

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 be sure to not exceed the permitted number of livestock.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this 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.

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:

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.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence		Fence Maintenance	
Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence		Continue with reconstructing the Forest boundary fence, to include fence reconstruction in Pine Canyon.	
	Water tanks/various	TBD	Various dirt tanks across the allotment (total of 5 at most) need to be cleaned out this year. Please make this a priority this year.	

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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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 Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger