

**SIERRA VISTA RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Middle Canyon Allotment
2025 Grazing Year – AMENDED 03/17/2025**

I. AUTHORIZED USE: The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Middle Canyon Allotment:

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUMs	AUTHORIZED SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	4	48	03/01/2025 – 02/28/2026
Cattle	Bull	4	72	03/01/2025 – 02/28/2026
Horses	Mature	2	29	03/01/2025 – 02/28/2026
	Total	10	149	

AUMs were calculated using the following numbers: Cow/Calf – 1.0 Bull – 1.5 Horse – 1.2

Non-use is approved as follows:

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUMs	DATES OF NON-USE	NON-USE APPROVED FOR (REASON)
Cattle	Cow/Calf	88	1051	03/01/2025 – 02/28/2026	Resource Protection
	Total	88			

Notes: Non-use is granted for Resource Protection due to lack of water/drought. The Middle Canyon permittee has plans to repair water systems and fences across the allotment to better support livestock in drought years. Most of the range water systems are need of maintenance and it may be several years before full permitted numbers can be stocked on the Allotment. A collaborative stock-up plan will be developed over the next several years between the permittee and the District.

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

Pasture	Proposed Numbers	Proposed Season of Use	Comments (i.e. Use Standard, special concerns or instructions)
Forest	2	03/01/2025 – 02/28/2026	Horses
Cottonwood	8	03/01/2025 – 02/28/2026	Cows + Bulls

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.

Current Year Improvement Schedule			YEAR	2025
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Forest Corral		Permittee plans to rebuild the corrals at the Forest Well	Planning
	Box Spring Water Project		Extend pipeline 0.9 miles from Box Spring to the new corrals behind the caverns	
	Caverns Corrals		Build new corrals just inside the Forest Boundary behind Kartchner Caverns	
	Rickett Fenceline		Coordinate with the Benson Permittee to work on the Rickett/Benson ABF	
	Ricketts Well		Do some investigative work to see if we could revamp the Ricketts Well and get it functional again	
	Gate Replacement		Replace wire gates with swinging gates across the allotment as funding allows	
	Fire Damage Replacement		Replace the trough, storage, and pipelines melted in the Lone Star fire	
Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments			YEAR	2024
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Star Well Improvement	Sept. 2024	NRCS redrilled the Star Well in summer of 2024	Done

VI. ROADS:

Vehicular access on established roads can be essential for structural range improvement maintenance, supplement placement and general ranch duties. Any open road to the public (road on Motor Vehicle Use Map- *MVUM*) may be used at any time for any reason. The use of other established roads must be authorized within the Term Grazing Permit or in the Annual Operating Instructions. Cross country may be authorized by written permission from the District Ranger. Vehicular access is authorized on the following Forest Service inventoried roads not on the MVUM:

Road Number (From TMR Maps)	Reason for Use	Comments (i.e. Use Standard, special concerns or instructions)
4917	Access to Improvement	Starr Well Water Development
Decommissioned Portion of 4841	Allotment Access and Management	Access allowed through a Permit Modification

VII. 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.


VIII. 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.


IX. 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.

In 2021, the Forest consulted with the US Fish & Wildlife Service about on-going grazing activities and the impacts they may have on threatened and endangered species. You have been provided a copy of the Biological Opinion (BO). Please pay particular attention to the sections pertaining to the species on your allotment. If you need new copies, please contact this office. Please pay particular attention to the terms and conditions and conservation recommendations for each species.



DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger



Date