

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Middlemarch Allotment
2023 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2023** grazing season for the **Middlemarch** Allotment. The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

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

Authorized Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Middlemarch	3/1/2023	4/15/2023	46	189			7		293	296
Middlemarch	11/15/2023	2/28/2024	106	189			5		671	676
Total									964	972

Non-Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Middlemarch										
Middlemarch										
Reason: NA										
Total										

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Black Tank		3/1/2023	3/15/2023	15	5	138		56		90	98
Black Diamond		3/16/2023	3/30/2023	15	20	118		56		87	96
Lower Middlemarch		4/1/2023	4/15/2023	15	40	78		56		78	86
Off Forest		4/16/2023	11/14/2023	213							
Lower Middlemarch		11/15/2023	11/20/2023	6		189		5		38	38
Stronghold		11/21/2023	12/20/2023	30		189		5		190	191
Upper Middlemarch		12/21/2023	1/15/2024	26		189		5		165	166
Upper Soren		1/16/2024	2/16/2024	32		189		5		203	204
Lower Soren		2/17/2024	2/29/2024	13		189		5		82	83
Applied For									932	962	
Permitted									1013	1013	

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

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 consecutive years and not more than 4 years out of any 10 year period.

Use these pastures as water dictates. If you need to use these pastures outside of the indicated time period, contact this office and we will discuss. 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.

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.

Remember that even if an improvement is not listed on this AOI for maintenance, all of your assigned improvements are your responsibility to maintain.

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/158003	10/1/2022	China peak to Middlemarch Pass	Done
	Water/ 158025	12/10/2022	Replace ¾ mile of # 158025 Sand Pipeline from Sand Well. Pipeline will be reburied in its previously existing location.	Pending
	Water/158018	12/10/2022	Water – Trough at Cobre Loma Mine	
	Water/158014	12/10/2022	Bull (Black Tank) pipeline replacement	
	Water #158013		Replaced ½ mile of # 158013 Sorin Pipeline from Sorin Well. Pipeline will be reburied in its previously existing location.	

Current Year Improvements: This year, your assigned list of improvements, listed below, are to be accomplished according to the permit modifications provided to you.

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Water/158012		Replace trough at Sorin Well	
	Water/158025		Replace trough at Sand pipeline	

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 a copy of these Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger