

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Paradise/Cave Creek/ East Whitetail Allotments
2021 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2021** grazing season for the **Paradise, Cave Creek and East Whitetail** Allotments. The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

I. AUTHORIZED USE: 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	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Cave Creek	3/1/2021	4/15/2021	46	80				121	121
Cave Creek	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	80				316	316
Paradise	3/1/2021	3/15/2021	15	95	8			52	51
Paradise	9/15/2021	2/28/2022	167	95	8			574	566
E. Whitetail	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	95	5			203	201
E. Whitetail	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	95	5			398	395
Total								1664	1648

Due to the on-going severe drought we are all currently experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management on your allotment may be needed. Please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan and keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that may affect your allotment. 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.

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

All of the cattle for both Cave Creek and Paradise allotments will initially be put into the Upper and Lower Silver Creek pastures of the Paradise allotment for approximately 47 days, with the option of beginning two weeks early to take advantage of the available livestock water and encourage distribution (if needed). This adaptive management action is intended to increase livestock distribution when water is available. They will then be moved to the Silver Cave and the Cemetery pastures for 30 days. Cattle will then be moved to the Paradise Pasture for 51 days. The cattle will then be moved to the North and South Fork pastures for 55 days. During the duration of time in the North and South Fork Pastures the cattle will be intermittently moved into the Basin and Greenhouse pastures as resources and infrastructure allow. During the last 10 days on the Cave Creek Allotment, cattle will be driven down the mountain through several pastures in order to gather and remove livestock from the allotment. If the cattle are placed on the allotment early as mentioned above, then they will be removed from the forest two weeks early because of the early entry date. The pasture rotation shown below shows the livestock leaving the allotment by March 15, 2022, but you have been authorized until April 15th to account for remnants, etc. The cattle in the East Whitetail Allotment will be divided into two herds. The first herd will be placed in the Indian Creek Pasture for 152 days and then pushed down into both the Split Rock and Mackey pasture for the remaining 30 days. The second herd will remain only in the two pastures of this section of the



allotment and will be rotated beginning in the Upper Jhus pasture for 107 days followed by 75 days in the Lower Jhus pasture.

The actual length of this grazing period will be dependent on forage utilization and water availability in these pastures.

Pasture	Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
N. Fork/S. Fork/Greenhouse/ Basin*	CaveCreek	3/1/2021	3/15/2021	15	175	8			91	90
Off Forest	Off Forest	3/16/2021	9/14/2021							
Up/Low Silver Creek	Paradise	9/15/2021	10/31/2021	47	95	8			162	159
Silver Cave/Cemetery	Paradise	11/1/2021	11/30/2021	30	175	8			182	180
Paradise	Paradise	12/1/2021	1/20/2022	51	175	8			310	307
N. Fork/S. Fork/Greenhouse/ Basin	CaveCreek	1/21/2022	2/28/2022	39	175	8			237	235
Lower Jhus	E. Whitetail	3/1/2021	4/30/2021	61	37	3			105	80
Indian Creek	E. Whitetail	3/1/2021	3/31/2021	31	58	2			80	61
Split Rock/ Mackey	E. Whitetail	4/1/2021	4/30/2021	30	58	2			78	59
Off Forest	Off Forest	5/1/2021	10/31/2021							
Indian Creek	E. Whitetail	11/1/2021	2/28/2022	120	58	2			238	237
Upper Jhus	E. Whitetail	11/1/2021	2/15/2022	107	37	3			184	141
Lower Jhus	E. Whitetail	2/16/2022	2/28/2022	13	37	3			22	17
Grey cells are calculated fields								Applied For	1,690	1566
White cells are editable								Permitted	1699	1699
									Non-Use	
NOTES:										
*This is the maximum number of livestock that would be present on the allotment, but most likely will be far fewer.										
This pasture rotation depends entirely on spring and summer rainfall of 2021.										

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.

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 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
	Corrals	2019/20	Repair the North Fork Corrals (107018), if necessary.	12/20/19
	Fence	2019/2020	Reconstruct fence 107012-1 – fence from Ash Spring to the Herb Martyr campground fence. This fence will be reconstructed if necessary	12/1/20
	Fence	2020	Paradise Fence	10/15/20
	Fence	2020	Cemetery Pasture Fence	10/15/20
	Fence	2020	Repairing/replacing water gaps across the allotments	On going
	Road	Various	Road work as necessary to access corrals or necessary range improvements. This must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Douglas Ranger District.	On going
Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Welch Seep Trough	2021	Trough needs sealed or replaced. Also, the pipeline needs to be cleaned out regularly due to shale build-up.	
	Welch Seep Pipeline	2021	Assemble/ Repair pipeline from Welch Spring to both troughs	
	Road	2021	Re-install cattleguard grate in Forest Road 357 where allotment fence 102013 intersects	

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.

Keep this copy of the Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,



DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger