

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Paradise/Cave Creek/ East Whitetail Allotments
2022 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2022** 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	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Cave Creek	3/1/2022	3/31/2022	31	80					82	82
Cave Creek	10/1/2022	2/28/2023	151	80					397	397
Paradise	3/1/2022	3/31/2022	31	105					107	107
Paradise	10/1/2022	2/28/2023	151	105					521	521
E. Whitetail	3/1/2022	4/30/2022	61	100					201	201
E. Whitetail	11/1/2022	2/28/2023	120	100					395	395
Total									1702	1702

Non-Use										
Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrlng	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Reason: N/A									0	0
Total									0	0

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.

The above authorized use represents full permitted numbers. Though the full permitted AUMs will not be used this year, full numbers will be stocked at various times throughout the grazing season.

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

For the beginning of the grazing season, 185 head of cattle all together will be placed in the Cave Creek pastures for the month of March. 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.

Upon returning to the forest in the fall, all of the cattle for both Cave Creek and Paradise allotments will initially be placed in the Paradise pasture of the Paradise allotment for approximately 90 days. At the beginning of the new year in January, approximately half of the



cattle will then be moved to the Silver Cave and the Cemetery pastures while the other half remain in the Paradise pasture through the end of February.

The cattle in the East Whitetail Allotment will be divided into two herds for the beginning of the grazing season. One herd will be placed in the Indian Creek Pasture through the end of April, or until feed or water diminish. In that case, they will be pushed down into both the Split Rock and Mackey pasture for the remainder of the grazing season. The second herd will be placed in the Lower Jhus pasture through the end of April.

Upon returning to the East Whitetail allotment in the fall, the cattle will be placed as one herd in the Indian Creek pasture, as feed and water allow.

This rotation strategy is outlined in the table below.

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
N. Fork/S. Fork/Greenhouse/ Basin	CaveCreek	3/1/2022	3/31/2022	31	69	65	15	36		181	189
Off Forest	Off Forest	4/1/2022	9/30/2022								
Paradise	Paradise	10/1/2022	12/31/2022	92	65	69	15			460	451
Silver Cave/Cemetery	Paradise	1/1/2023	1/20/2023	20		69	7			51	50
Paradise	Paradise	1/1/2023	2/28/2023	59	65		8			145	142
Upper/Lower Silver Creek	Paradise	1/21/2023	2/28/2023	39		69	7			99	97
Lower Jhus	E.Whitetail	3/1/2022	4/30/2022	61		19	1			41	40
Indian Creek	E.Whitetail	3/1/2022	4/30/2022	61	7	65	2			154	148
Off Forest	Off Forest	5/1/2022	10/31/2022								
Indian Creek	E.Whitetail	11/1/2022	2/28/2023	120	95		5			398	395
Upper Jhus	E.Whitetail										
Lower Jhus	E.Whitetail										
Grey cells are calculated fields									Applied For	1528	1511
White cells are editable									Permitted	1702	1702
									Non-Use		

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.

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 season of 2021, 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.

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
	Fence/Road	10/5/21	Cleaned cattleguards near the Paradise area	
	Fence/Road	10/6/21	Cattleguards	
	Fence		Repaired watergaps across the allotments, as well as general fence maintenance	
	Water	10/15/21	“Goldfish Spring” Though this spring is not listed as a range improvement because it is on private land, the water services FS lands adjacent to Paradise	

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence	2022	Paradise Fence. FS will provide the materials for this project	
	Welch Seep Trough	2022	Trough needs sealed or replaced. Also, the pipeline needs to be cleaned out regularly due to shale build-up. This is a low priority, but reconfiguration of the plumbing may help to alleviate the clogging issue.	
	Welch Seep Pipeline	2022	Assemble/ Repair pipeline from Welch Spring to both troughs	
	Road	2022	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