

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Paradise/Cave Creek/ East Whitetail Allotments
2023 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2023** 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	3/1/2023	3/31/2023	31	80					82	82
Cave Creek	10/1/2023	2/29/2024	152	80					400	400
Paradise	3/1/2023	3/31/2023	31	95					97	97
Paradise	3/1/2023	3/15/2023	15			8			5	4
Paradise	10/1/2023	2/29/2024	152	95		8			523	515
E. Whitetail	3/1/2023	4/30/2023	61	95		5			203	201
E. Whitetail	11/1/2023	2/29/2024	121	95		5			402	398
Total									1710	1695

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 Paradise pasture for the month of March, cattle will moved on to private land from there. Upon returning to the forest in the fall, all the cattle for both Cave Creek and Paradise allotments will initially be placed in the Paradise pasture of the Paradise allotment for approximately 46 days. Mid November, approximately half of the cattle will then be moved to the Upper/Lower Silver Creek, Silver Cave, and the Cemetery pastures while the other half will be moved to the Cave Creek Pastures. 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 moved into and remain in the Paradise pasture through the end of February.



The cattle in the East Whitetail Allotment will be put on the Upper and Lower Jhus Pastures 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 until 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. Then the herd will be split Between Upper/Lower Jhus and Split Rock/Mackey till the end of the grazing season.

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
Paradise	Paradise	3/1/2023	3/31/2023	31		180	5			190	189
Off Forest	Off Forest	4/1/2023	9/30/2023								
Paradise	Paradise	10/1/2023	11/15/2023	46		180	5			281	280
N. Fork/S. Fork/Greenhouse/ Basin	CaveCreek	11/16/2023	1/31/2024	77		100	3			262	261
Upper/Lower Silver Creek/Cemetary/Cave Spring	Paradise	11/16/2023	1/31/2024	77		80	2			209	208
Paradise	Paradise	2/1/2024	2/29/2024	29		185				176	176
Upper/Lower Jhus	E.Whitetail	3/1/2023	4/30/2023	61	95					191	191
Off Forest	Off Forest	5/1/2023	10/31/2023								
Indian Creek	E.Whitetail	11/1/2023	1/31/2024	92		100				302	302
Upper/Lower Jhus	E.Whitetail	2/1/2024	2/29/2024	29		60				57	57
Split Rock/ Mackey	E.Whitetail	2/1/2024	2/29/2024	29		40				38	38
Grey cells are calculated fields									Applied For	1706	1701
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 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.

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.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence/Road	1/15/2023	Cleaned cattleguards near the Paradise area	
	Fence/Road	1/15/2023	Cattleguards	
	Fence	11/1/2022	Repaired watergaps across the allotments, as well as general fence maintenance	Ongoing

	Water	10/10/2022	“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	
	Fence	1/10/2023	Indian Creek	
	Fence	1/10/2023	Lower Jhus/ Mackey	
	Fence	1/10/2023	Indian Creek/Monument	

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence 102038	2023	Paradise Fence. FS will provide the materials for this project	
	Welch Seep Trough	2023	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	2023	Assemble/ Repair pipeline from Welch Spring to both troughs	
	Road	2023	Clean out cattleguards near the Paradise area	
	Corral	2023	Rebuild corral at paradise	
	Fence	2023	Maintenance around Indian Creek	
	Brush Control	2023	Brush Control around Paradise	

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 the Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger