



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: February 7th 2020

J Bar B Cattle Co. LLP
Poison Springs Allotment

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2020 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Poison Springs grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan, and available information describing range conditions.

Authorized Use

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Notes/Comments
Intake	February 1 st April 30 th	April 24 th	115 Cows 10 Bulls	Livestock must be moved out of this pasture by April 30 th .
Summit	May 1 st August 31 st	August 28 th	115 Cows 10 Bulls	
Klondike	September 1 st October 28 th	October 30 th	115 Cows 10 Bulls	Livestock will not start moving into Klondike until September 1 st
Blevins	October 29 th January 29 th	January 22 nd	115 Cows 10 Bulls	
Intake	Next AOI	TBD	115 Cows 10 Bulls	

Monitoring:

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.



Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

Vegetative Use Guidelines:

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

Vegetation	Use Threshold
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks (if applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum
Annual Grasses	50% of current year's growth

Range Improvement Maintenance:

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2020 proposed range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Klondike/Summit	Klondike Water System	Move location of troughs previously authorized	Archeological and biological clearances needed prior to beginning work.
Klondike and Summit	Klondike Water System	Extend pipeline from previously authorized storage tank to Summit Well then down towards Highway 288	Archeological and biological clearances needed as well as Decision Memo prior to any work being conducted.

Summit	Summit Well	Adjust division fence to meet with the corral	Archeological and biological clearances needed as well as Decision Memo prior to any work being conducted.
Intake	Poison Spring	Extend pipeline from Poison Spring WS down towards the Lake	Archeological and biological clearances needed as well as Decision Memo prior to any work being conducted.
Multiple	Multiple	Look at Installing cattle guards at multiple locations	Archeological clearance needed as well as letter authorizing work prior to any work being conducted.

Salting:

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

Supplements and Attractants

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

Supplemental Feeding:

No supplemental feeding is authorized.

Weeds

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hoskins, Range Management Specialist, at (602) 225-5332.

Sincerely,



KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Ina Yazzie