

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**Rak Allotment
2023 Grazing Year**

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

I. AUTHORIZED USE: The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Rak allotment.

Authorized Use

Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Rak	3/1/2023	4/23/2023	54	216		29			445	435
Rak	8/7/2023	2/29/2024	207	221					1504	1504
Total									1949	1939

Non-Use

Reason: N/A									Total	

This represents full permitted numbers.

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

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yrling	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Lower Cottonwood		3/1/2023	4/8/2023	39		221				283	283
Parade Ground		4/9/2023	4/15/2023	7		221				51	51
Shipping		4/16/2023	4/29/2023	14		221				102	102
Off Forest		4/30/2023	8/5/2023	98							
John Long		8/6/2023	10/7/2023	63	151		15			350	344
Stanford		8/6/2023	10/7/2023	63	151		15			350	344
Shipping		10/8/2023	10/28/2023	21		302				209	209
Station		10/29/2023	11/11/2023	14		302				139	139
Brushy		11/12/2023	12/16/2023	35		302				348	348
Sycamore		12/17/2023	2/29/2024	75		302				745	745
Grey cells are calculated fields									Applied For	2,576	2563
White cells are editable									Permitted	2980	2980

Reminder: Please ensure salt is at least ¼ mile or more from water or drainage bottoms.

Note that because of the remaining fence damage that resulted from the Horseshoe II fire in 2011, your diligence is required to maintain adequate distribution and appropriate use levels in the Cottonwood, Bull, Stanford and Pridham pastures.

Also, special consideration to completely prevent livestock from entering the Camp Rucker Heritage site must be given to adequately protect the wildlife pond there.

This year livestock will be on the southern rotation in the Rucker basin, to include the Cottonwood pastures.

Pasture rotation is designed to incorporate growing season rest or deferment to allow for grazed plant recovery. Pastures grazed during the summer growing season (July – September) will not be grazed during the growing season the following year.

This rotation schedule is dependent on climatic conditions and the availability of water. If favorable climatic conditions do not occur a change in rotation will be discussed with Douglas Range personnel and may be adjusted following the summer rains.

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.

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. Improvement schedule is dependent upon funding.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	Fence#114078	8/30/2022	Replaced approximately 3/4 of a mile Rak/Pridham Fence #114078.	Ongoing

Current Year Improvement Schedule				
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	114041 – Fence		Middle Division Fence – Fence that separates the Upper Cottonwood pasture from Brushy pasture. Reconstruct approximately 1 mile of fence.	
	114046- Water/Pipeline		CCC pipeline to be replaced. (May require NEPA if buried). This pipeline and associated water system is important to allow livestock to distribute appropriately throughout the pasture. This should be a high priority for this grazing season.	
	Fence - 114078		Replace approximately 1.25 miles of Rak/Pridham Fence #114078. (Forest Service will provide some of the materials required to complete this project)	

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