



File Code: 2210
Date: February 25, 2022

Red Creek, 6 Bar, & Skeleton Ridge Allotments

Dear Permittee

On Friday, February 11th, you met with Matt and Chandler to discuss your 2022 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Red Creek, Skeleton Ridge and 6 Bar Allotments. This AOI is a guide for management of the Red Creek Ranch LLC and Houston Creek Ranch LLC for the 2022 grazing year. This plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your amended 2021 AOI.

I. PERMITTED USE/AUTHORIZED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the Red Creek, Skeleton Ridge and 6 Bar Allotments as per Term Grazing Permit #12246 issued to Red Creek Ranch LLC and Houston Creek Ranch LLC.

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	519	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	339	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
	260	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	170	Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
	20	Cow/Calf	11/1 to 3/31
	700	Weaner Calf	11/15 to 6/15

Red Creek Ranch LLC and Houston Creek Ranch LLC is authorized to run at the following numbers for the 2022 Grazing Year (GY).

Kind	Number	Class	Season of Use
Cattle	542	Cow/Calf	3/1 to 2/28
	359	*Yearlings	1/1 to 5/31
	34	Bulls	3/1 to 2/28
Horse	11	Horse	3/1 to 2/28

*Yearlings are the progeny of the above adult cattle

II. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Below is the discussed rotation that will be approved for GY 2022. Adjustments to pasture rotation, season of use and numbers may vary depending on several factors including, but not limited to, precipitation, water availability and forage conditions. If an adjustment to the rotation is needed and/or management concerns exist, please contact the District Range Staff in advance to arrange an adjustment to the rotation.



The desired utilization level for 2022 grazing season is 35% on key species in the key areas and we would like to monitor utilization with you after the livestock leave a pasture.

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Red Creek	542 C/C, 34 Bulls, 359 Yearlings	March 01 to May 31
Red Creek	542 C/C, 34 Bulls	June 01 to June 30
Yellow Jacket/Rugged Mesa	542 C/C, 34 Bulls	July 01 to August 31
“Sodas”	542 C/C, 34 Bulls	Sept. 01 to December 31
Yellow Jacket/rugged Mesa	542 C/C, 34 Bulls	January 01 to February 28

A one-week buffer is allowed on either side of the move date to get cattle from one pasture to the next. If additional time is needed, it must be discussed and approved by the Forest Service prior to the move date.

Continued monitoring, water availability, and forage conditions will be assessed over the next several months leading into the seasonal monsoon timeframe. A second AOI meeting may be needed to adjust management concerns for precipitation. Continuous discussions will occur in that timeframe.

III. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21. Grazing will be managed so that conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term. Considerable research has been done showing that conservative use levels will allow for sustaining and improving watershed conditions. Conservative utilization levels are as follows:

Upland	Herbaceous:	30 to 40% of current year's growth.
	Woody:	50% of current year's growth.
Riparian	Herbaceous:	40% of plant species biomass (Deergrass) and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height.
	Woody:	40% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6' tall.
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's	20% Optimum to 40% Maximum	Management of PAC's for Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in TNF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13).

Utilization will be measured in key areas for key forage species when livestock leave the pasture. However, grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to practice proactive management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. Utilization measurements serve as only one piece of information that is considered when evaluating the effectiveness of allotment management. Utilization data will be coupled with other information such as vegetation condition, drought, forage plant production and vigor,

soil and watershed condition, and long-term trends, to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

IV. MONITORING

Monitoring dates are tentative, and some may not be required. Range personnel from the Cave Creek District may contact you prior to monitoring visits. We encourage your participation in these inspections, as it provides an opportune time to discuss resource conditions and management items. VGS Monitoring may be conducted in the spring and/or fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

V. ADMINISTRATION

The records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit must be maintained. The permittee must hold ownership of the corporation (if applicable), deed for the base property, and brand associated with that permit for the entire term of the permit. Any undocumented changes in ownership are a violation of the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit under Part 2, Sec. 7.

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Salting may be used to aid in livestock distribution and management. Salting must be located no closer than ¼ mile from waters, streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION I MAINTENANCE

The permittee shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the Forest Officer in charge of the allotment.

Red Creek, Skeleton Ridge and 6 Bar Allotment Improvement Work Schedule, 2022		
Improvement Type	Improvement Name	Work Period and Notes
Springs	Dog Spring and Quail Spring	Clean out spring source and replace the associated troughs/pipelines and any associated storages to working order.
Dirt/Earthen Tanks	Double Tank, and Rusty Tank (any of the 52 remaining Tanks approved)	Clean out stock tank, repair dams and other breaches, stay on existing routes
Fences	Any existing fences and water gaps damaged in need of repair.	Any existing fences and water gaps damaged in need of repair.

The following projects are awaiting approval. Please do not start work on the following projects until approval has been granted.

- **Earthen Tank located on 16 road north of the 16A junction.**
- **18 road closures. We are having conversations with other functions for our possibilities for closing off the 18 road as identified in Travel Management Rule. We understand the problems you are facing with increased traffic down the 18 road and keeping gates closed/fence repaired. Please give us a little time so we can come up with a sound plan.**

Maintenance of existing improvements is exempt from additional heritage (archaeological) clearances, however, may require a simple biological review before work may proceed. Timing restrictions for project work may also be stipulated based on the type of equipment used to perform the work. Please provide the Forest Service with advanced notice of any maintenance you wish to perform so there is enough time to complete any required reviews.

The following mitigation measures must be followed when cleaning earthen stock tanks:

- Maintenance will be conducted using backhoes with rubber tires or bulldozers no larger than a Caterpillar D7
- Bentonite may be worked into soils of the dirt tanks in order to bind soil for increased tank effectiveness. The Forest Service may have bentonite available upon request. All dirt tank work will be arranged within the existing tank basin. No additional ground disturbances will be authorized outside the existing basins, earthen dams or designated travel paths of the equipment to the tanks.
- Cleaning bar ditches is not authorized. Bar ditches will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- You may not drop the blade on your equipment until your machine is within the existing tank expect to push an occasional boulder or tree out of your path.
- Confine all activities to existing disturbances from previous construction and existing vehicular travel ways. If the previous access or trails are not apparent, contact our office so we may clear a route free of cultural resources. Please leave no evidence of your route to the tank and do not improve the route to the tank.

VIII. 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.

IX. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity.

X. PERMIT CONDITIONS

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

Sincerely,



MICAH GRONDIN
District Ranger