



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Cave Creek Ranger District

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**File Code:** 2230/2210  
**Date:** January 19, 2024

Red Creek, Six Bar, and Skeleton Ridge Permittee

Red Creek Ranch and Houston Creek Ranch

Dear Warren and Joanie,

On Wednesday, January 19, 2024, you met with Matt Kilford, Kimberly Cole, and I to discuss your 2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Red Creek, Six Bar, and Skeleton Ridge Allotments.

Your AOI is attached. If changes are needed to your rotation and/or management concerns exist, please contact the District Range Staff in advance to adjust your AOI.

Monitoring of forage conditions and water availability will continue over the next several weeks and into the monsoon season. A second AOI meeting may be needed to adjust management in response to resource conditions.

The AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your 2023 AOI. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Kilford at (480) 595-3331, or Kimberly Cole (928) 642-6118.

Sincerely,

MICAH GRONDIN  
District Ranger



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## 2024 Annual Operating Instructions

### Red Creek, Six Bar, and Skeleton Ridge Allotments

This AOI is a guide for management for the 2024 grazing year. The pasture rotation and numbers discussed are as follows:

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Sodas		Rest
Mustang		Rest
*Middle Fork	375 C/C, 20 Bulls, 5 Horses	March 01 – May 31
*Mud Springs	375 C/C, 20 Bulls, 5 Horses	June 01 – July 30
Roundtree	375 C/C, 20 Bulls, 5 Horses	Aug 01 – Oct 15
Cedar Mountain	375 C/C, 20 Bulls, 5 Horses	Oct 16 – Dec 31
Dugan/Peso	375 C/C, 20 Bulls, 5 Horses	Jan 01 – Feb 28

*\*Per AMP, Six Bar Allotment is seasonal use from November 15 to June 15. The 1995 AMP states that the schedule may be yearlong use if improvements have/are constructed. Over the last couple of years improvements to the Six Bar pastures have been addressed or maintained and will continue to be maintained. Schedule for Six Bar Pastures will still follow seasonal use but start early by two months. This schedule is needed to have animals in Mud Springs Pasture by the spring for sorting/shipping and branding.*

A one-week buffer is allowed on either side of the date to get cattle moved 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.

#### Management

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines applicable to Red Creek, Six Bar, and Skeleton Ridge livestock grazing will be followed (Forest Plan, p. 24).

- Salt and/or supplements will be placed where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low. Salt and/or supplements will not be placed any closer than one quarter mile from available water, recreation sites, or designated trails except where prior written approval had been obtained from the District Ranger. No salting will occur within or adjacent to identified heritage sites. Salt will be removed from pastures when cattle have left an area, and not placed within a pasture until the cattle arrive. Additionally, salt will not be placed in the same location(s) each year.
- Troughs will be left full of water and operational year-round for wildlife accessibility, unless in limited circumstances where extreme freezing conditions may damage facilities.
- When entering the next scheduled pasture, all livestock will be removed from the previous pasture within two weeks (dependent on terrain) and will ensure that enough time is allowed to remove livestock to meet the pasture move date(s).





- You will ensure all infrastructure is in functioning condition prior to entering the next scheduled pasture.
- Per the 1995 AMP for Six Bar Allotment, the allotment may be grazed on a seasonal basis by yearling cattle, or their equivalent in adult cattle from November 15 through June 15, until such time as improvements have been constructed to properly graze pastures according to a yearlong grazing schedule. See note to rotation schedule above.

Forage utilization will be managed at a level corresponding to light to moderate intensity to provide for grazed plant recovery, increases in herbage production and retention of herbaceous litter to protect soils. Red Creek, Six Bar, and Skeleton Ridge Utilization is as follows according to the 1985, 1988, 1991, 1995 AMP.

FORAGE TYPE	USE LEVELS
Uplands	30% to 40% on primary forage species.
Riparian woody	Limited to 50% of terminal leader (top 1/3 of plant) on palatable tree species accessible to livestock (<6 feet tall).
Riparian grasses and grass like species	Deergrass- Limit use to 40% of plant species biomass. Emergent species (rushes, sedges, cattails, horsetail)- Maintain a 6-8-inch stubble height during grazing period. Maintain or increase deergrass canopy to 48%. Increase canopy of sedges, rushes, and reeds to 1-2%

- If use levels are reached before schedule move dates, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture. If all pastures have been utilized before the end of the grazing season livestock will be removed from the allotment until the start of the next growing season.

You are encouraged to participate in all monitoring activities. Please keep records of actual use and movement dates to provide to the district range staff at the annual authorization meeting each year.

### Improvements

You shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. You must receive District approval prior to bringing heavy equipment onto the Forest. Any maintenance or reconstruction will be confined within original site disturbance and construction design.

