

**2017 Annual Operating Instructions  
Rice Peak**

**Resource Objectives For This Grazing Season**

Conditions are improved but the drought is still affecting vegetation and management as evidenced by the less than normal growth on the allotment last season. Perennial grasses and browse need close management in order to continue to recover from the drought effects. The drought has been hard on wildlife, even more so than livestock. To help the antelope fawn survival rate leave an 8 inch average stubble height in the tobosa pastures.

**Water must be available for wildlife when cattle are not in a pasture so leave storage tanks and troughs full.** To avoid damage to wells they do not have to be left on when cattle are removed from a pasture although we recommend you periodically check the availability of water and refill storage tanks and troughs.

**Authorization**

Upon payment of fees livestock are authorized as follows for **2017**:

<u>Number of Livestock</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified)</u>
150 c/c & bulls	1 (North)	5/31- 6/30
150 c/c & bulls	3 (East)	7/1- 7/8
150 c/c & bulls	<b>Indian crk (upperwater)*</b>	7/9-8/23
150 c/c & bulls	3 (East)	8/24-9/24
150 c/c & bulls	2 (South)	9/25-10/31

**\*Work on stream crossing water gap and check the enclosure often while in that pasture**

The Forest Officer must be given actual use, by pasture, when making the next annual application. Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if a week or two in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer promptly.

Move your livestock regardless of the date shown above, to avoid exceeding allowable use (utilization) levels.

**Allowable Use**

The following is maximum allowable use: Uplands: *On palatable grasses*: 35% while actively growing, 50% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On shrubs*: browsing of 50% of available leaders. Riparian: *On palatable grasses and sedges*: 30% of the total weight available. *On shrubs*: browsing of 50% of available leaders. Again, 8" of stubble height must be left on grasses in the tobosa pastures. This measurement should be away from water in the middle of the grazing area.

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, no matter what the dates on paper are. Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.

**Salt And Supplements**

The thoughtful placement of salt, mineral, and protein is a valuable distribution aid. Salt will not be located in heavy use areas, including within ¼ mile of water. Instead, place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.

**Range Improvements**

Maintenance will follow the standards in your Part 3 of your grazing permit. Upper Water enclosure fence must be functional before livestock are permitted in Indian Creek Pasture.

**Permittee Comments And Suggestions**

**Travel management-**

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

**Permit Conditions**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow 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. (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.)

APPROVED BY: Todd Walker 2-21-17  
District Ranger Date

AGREED TO BY: Scott Smith 2-21-17  
Permittee Date