

**2023-2024
Annual Operating Instructions
Sand Flat Allotment**

This document serves as your 2023-2024 Grazing Year, Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Sand Flat Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual stocking level (280-300 cow/calf pairs and 20 horses from 12/18-5/15) are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking level is based on current and expected forage production. The planned use period in a pasture and livestock numbers can/should be adjusted if conditions change, either (shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability but not in excess of the permitted numbers and utilization in key areas).

*Any changes from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance and will be made only with prior written Forest Service Officer Approval. (An Amendment)

*If emergency conditions require making an immediate change, notify the Forest Service Officer promptly.

Authorization

Upon payment of fees, the following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2023-2024 grazing season:

Number of Livestock	Pasture	Tentative Grazing Period
300	Henderson	12/20/23-02/25/24
300	Mexican	02/26/24-03/31/24
300	Witty Tom	04/01/24-05/15/24
20 Horses	Bull	12/20/23-01/31/24

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2023-2024 Grazing Season

None

RESOURCE MONITORING

Allowable Use

The following is maximum allowable use: Uplands: *On key grass species*: 40% while actively growing, 40% during dormant periods. This percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. *On key shrub species*: browsing of 40% of available leaders.

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.

The permittee is encouraged to participate in the allotment monitoring process.

Actual Use

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the grazing year: 1) Pasture; 2) Actual Grazing Period; 3) Actual Livestock Numbers.

***It is very important that this Actual Use form be completed and submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the grazing year.**

RESOURCE OBJECTIVES for THIS GRAZING SEASON

Proper livestock management practices, e.g. distribution, timing of grazing, and intensity of grazing, must be managed closely to provide for plant maintenance, improved vigor, and maintenance/improvement of vegetative ground cover. When cattle are not in a pasture, ensure water is available for wildlife and escape ramps are in place on troughs.

1. If the Forest Service detects livestock in any excluded riparian areas, the following process will be followed. The Forest officer is responsible for documenting the removal of those livestock.

a. If livestock are detected in the Verde River corridor on the allotment, the Forest Service will make reasonable efforts, within 48 hours, to notify you.

b. Livestock must be removed within 72 hours after being notified.

c. Permittee will notify the Forest service when livestock have been removed.

2. If the Forest Service detects damage to fencing during monitoring the Forest Service, notify you of the location and extend or repair needed, and timeframe.

- a. Minor repairs (e.g., busted wire, closing gate) will be accomplished as soon as practicable if actively grazing or as soon as possible, prior to any grazing in the pasture. Repairs requiring additional work (e.g., new wire and post to patch hole, removal of fallen trees) will be completed within 14 days, to the extent reasonable and feasible.
- b. The Forest Service will work with permittees to continue to identify areas where livestock may be incidentally accessing closed or excluded riparian areas through gaps in natural barriers and remedy those situations.
- c. If the Forest Service identifies any particular riparian area where the agency determines that livestock intrusions are a chronic issue, the Forest Service will initiate best efforts to determine how to address those intrusions on a more permanent basis.

SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; (See AMP and Term Grazing Permit for the complete list of the guidelines.) Place supplements to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements. Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest may replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life if properly maintained; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning.

Projects:

- Maintain Henderson Trick Tank by 5/15/24.
- Remove not utilized corral materials, panel, tire etc. at Witty Tom dirt tank by 12/31/23.
- Maintain sorting pens/fences by Witty Tom dirt tank by 12/31/23.
- Maintain or remove miscellaneous Henderson fence in the area Henderson trick tank by 05/15/24.
- Remove all replaced non-functional fence material on the allotment and return all unused fence supplies to the USFS by 05/15/24.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed our area in a moderate drought.

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).

ACCEPTED BY: Nancy Shew
Permittee

12/19/23
Date

APPROVED BY: [Signature]
District Ranger

12/19/23
Date