

**SIERRA VISTA RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)
Santa Cruz Allotment
2023 Grazing Year**

I. AUTHORIZED USE: The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Santa Cruz Allotment:

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUMs	AUTHORIZED SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	75	900	03/01/2023 – 02/28/2024
Cattle	Yearling	20	168	03/01/2023 – 02/28/2024
Cattle	Bulls	14	252	03/01/2023 – 02/28/2024
	Total	109	1320	

Note: AUM conversion factors for cow/calf = 1.00, Yearling heifers=0.7, Bulls =1.5

Non-use is approved as follows:

KIND	CLASS	NUMBER	AUMs	DATES OF NON-USE	NON-USE APPROVED FOR (REASON)
Cattle	Cow/Calf	271	3150	03/01/2023 – 02/28/2024	Resource Protection
	Total	271	3252		

Notes: Resource Protection granted for AMP direction, incomplete water system implementation, and drought recovery.

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

Pasture	Proposed Numbers	Proposed Season of Use	Comments (i.e. Use Standard, special concerns or instructions)
Lower Paloma	95 + 14	03/01/2023 – 04/15/2023	Cows + Bulls
Upper Paloma	95 + 14	04/16/2023 – 05/30/2023	Cows + Bulls
Shamrock	95 + 14	06/01/2023 – 08/31/2023	Cows + Bulls
Wild Hog	95 + 14	09/01/2023 – 11/31/2023	Cows + Bulls
Bull	95 + 14	12/01/2023 – 02/28/2024	Cows + Bulls

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.

Vehicular access to range improvements listed in the term grazing permit is authorized for routine maintenance. Vehicular access is also approved for the construction of any new improvements not yet listed in the term grazing permit.

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.

Current Year Improvement Schedule			YEAR	2022
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	351004 Shannon Spring and 351065 Corral Renovation	Planning	Permittee proposes a replacement of the dilapidated pipeline from the Shannon Spring to the Corral. This pipeline was replaced by the Soldier Basin Pipeline that was burned in the Duke Fire. The project will be funded through a cost share between the FS and the Permittee. Project will need clearances.	
	351038 Solarize Soldier Basin Well	Planning	Permittee will provide labor and solar pump and the Forest will provide solar panels. (Road needs major maintenance to access the well. Well is collapsed according to letter from 01/06/2022 which states you had it scoped and can see extensive damage)	
Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments			YEAR	2021
Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
			Additional storage added to the drinkers on the south side of the Shamrock Pasture and to the Douglas pasture drinkers. Completed by the permittee.	Done

VI. ROADS:

Vehicular access on established roads can be essential for structural range improvement maintenance, supplement placement and general ranch duties. Any open road to the public (road on Motor Vehicle Use Map- *MVUM*) may be used at any time for any reason. The use of other established roads must be authorized within the Term Grazing Permit or in the Annual Operating Instructions. Cross country may be authorized by written permission from the District Ranger. Vehicular access is authorized on the following Forest Service inventoried roads not on the MVUM:

Road Number (From TAP Maps)	Reason for Use	Comments (i.e. Use Standard, special concerns or instructions)
125-2.85R-1; continues into unmarked road	Access to Improvement	
4899-2.19L-1	Access to Improvement	
4662-2.33R-1	Access to Improvement	
4675-1.02R-1	Access to Improvement	
4677-1.09R-1	Access to Improvement	
Unmarked Road of 125 Road in Sec 27	Access to Improvement	Road is approx.5 miles long with drinker at end.
Unmarked Road off 4662	Access to Improvement	Road located across from Providencia Corral, connects to 4899.

VII. 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.

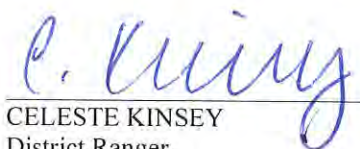

VIII. PROTECTION:

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. 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.

IX. 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.

In 2021, the Forest consulted with the US Fish & Wildlife Service about on-going grazing activities and the impacts they may have on threatened and endangered species. You have been provided a copy of the Biological Opinion (BO). Please pay particular attention to the sections pertaining to the species on your allotment. If you need new copies, please contact this office. Please pay particular attention to the terms and conditions and conservation recommendations for each species.

 _____ CELESTE KINSEY District Ranger	 _____ Date
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