

**2023  
Annual Operating Instructions  
Smith Canyon Allotment**

This document serves as your 2023 Grazing Year, Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Smith Canyon 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 (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) 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 grazing season:

Number of Livestock	Pasture	Grazing Period
150	Granites	3/01-03/15
150	Spider	03/16-05/15
150	Smith Mesa	05/16-08/15
150	Cottonwood	08/16-10/15
150	Smith Canyon	10/16-02/29

**Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2023 Grazing Season**  
Moano and Jones

**RESOURCE MONITORING**

**Allowable Use**

Grazing intensity guidelines will be applied across the allotment to provide rangeland managers with information needed to adapt management through adjustments, as may be needed, on an annual basis. Examples of appropriate grazing intensity and forage use guidelines for areas of the

allotment that are generally described to be in satisfactory condition include:

- A management guideline of 35-45% utilization of key forage plants in upland key areas as measured at the end of the growing season or seasonal use period;
- Up to 50-60% leaders browsed on key upland woody species;
- Minimum stubble height on key riparian herbaceous species: four to six inches where sedges and rushes are key and eight inches where deergrass is key;
- Up to 20% use by weight on key woody species within riparian areas; or less than 50% of terminal leaders browsed on woody species less than 6 feet tall.

Grazing intensity will be determined using key herbaceous and browse species within key areas. Grazing would be adjusted if periodic monitoring indicates that desired resource conditions are not being maintained.

#### **Site-specific Measures:**

The following measures will be applied in areas of concern where current conditions are not meeting desired conditions, and management objectives have been established to measure progress towards meeting desired resource conditions:

- Smith Canyon pasture: Incidental use levels (0-30%) to promote biomass retention and subsequent litter development (TEUI 427 & 461), and seasonal deferment and/or rest and improving livestock distribution by controlling access to waters and herding.
- Granites pasture: deferred season of use to allow further graminoid biomass retention (TEUI 461) and control access to water facilities to improve distribution. An additional water source is proposed that would distribute cattle away from the area needing improvement.
- Spider pasture: incidental use (0-30%) in the no capacity areas of TEUI 486 (Dillon field, south of Fair Oaks Road).
- Smith Mesa pasture: rest and incidental use (0-30%) in TEUI 490. Control access to water and place salt and supplement in locations to discourage concentrated use in TEUI 490.

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 2023 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.

**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. NO SALT/SUPPLEMENT WITHIN ¼ MILE OF WATER OR RIPARIAN.

**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.

- Roll up Rincon and Smith corrals by 8/15/23.
- Roll up Old Camp spring waterlot 6/01/23

**DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed.

**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: *Sheridan Assit Mangement, Thomas E. Folk Mangement* *2/8/23*  
Permittee Date

APPROVED BY: *[Signature]* *2/10/23*  
Deputy District Ranger Date  
*John A. Gava*