



**File Code:** 2230 /2210  
**Date:** January 11, 2024

Sunflower Allotment Permittee

Dear Horse Creek Farms,

On Thursday, January 11, 2024, you met with Matthew Kilford, Kimberly Cole, and myself to discuss your 2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for Sunflower.

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 summer 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 or Kim at (480) 610-3300.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW LANE  
District Ranger



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## **2024 Annual Operating Instructions**

### **Sunflower Allotment**

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>
<b><i>Dos S Unit</i></b>		
Maverick	113 C/C, 12 Bulls	Mar 01 – April 30
Pine	113 C/C, 12 Bulls	May 01 – October 31
Picadilla	113 C/C, 12 Bulls	Nov 01 – Feb 28
<b><i>Cline Unit</i></b>		
Coldwater (Tejana)	140 C/C, 10 Bulls	Mar 01 – April 30
Cline Cabin	140 C/C, 10 Bulls	May 01 – Oct 31
Picadilla Trap	140 C/C, 10 Bulls	Nov 01 – Feb 28
<b><i>Cottonwood East</i></b>		
Cane Springs	100 C/C, 10 Bulls	Mar 01 – April 30
Alder	100 C/C, 10 Bulls	May 01 – October 31
Cane Springs South	100 C/C, 10 Bulls	Nov 1 – Feb 28
Cane Springs North	Rest	
<b><i>Cottonwood West</i></b>	50 C/C, 10 Bulls	March 01 – February 28

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 Sunflower Allotment 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.
- Otero, Ranger Station, Sycamore Creek Riparian and Adams pasture be placed into non-use. Non-use in these pastures will benefit riparian resources and sensitive species of concern. Remaining pastures will be grazed in a rotational grazing system.

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. Sunflower Allotment Utilization is as follows according to the 2017 AMP.

FORAGE TYPE	USE LEVELS
UPLANDS	30% to 40% on primary forage species.
RIPARIAN TREES	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.

- 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.

#### ***Active Permit Modifications:***

- **2022-01, 2202-02 Bush Fire Infrastructure Replacements including pipelines and fences.**