

**2017 Annual Operating Instructions
Tank Creek**

Resource Objectives for this Grazing Season

Perennial grasses and major browse species within these pastures need rest in order to provide time to recover from the drought we're currently experiencing. Due to some recent timely moisture the allotment is showing signs of recovery. When cattle are not in a pasture, ensure water is available for wildlife and escape ramps are in place on troughs.

Provide for the health and vigor of perennial grasses and major browse species.

How?

- For all pastures and traps that have NF in them that would be grazed this year while growing, we will evaluate the readiness to graze using the management recommendations from the University of Arizona described as being moderately capable of benefiting plant recovery. That recommendation is to defer grazing until after key forage species have produced mature seed. This will be applied to areas livestock use.
- The trigger to move off pastures that have annuals available should be when grazing preference switches from annual to perennials.
- Follow forage and browse use standards (see Allowable Use section). Herbaceous production must be sufficient to provide litter at a moderate use level.

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>
380 cow/calves 25 bulls	Sycamore/Dougherty	March 1- June 30
380 cow/calves 25 bulls	Tank Creek	July 1 – November 30
380 cow/calves 25 bulls	D1 West	December 1 – Feb. 2018

The Forest Officer must be given actual use, by pasture, after livestock at the next annual authorization meeting. 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 of moderate to high vigor:* 40% while actively growing, 50% during dormant periods. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders. **Riparian, other than Sycamore Creek:** *On palatable grasses and sedges:* 30% of the total weight available, leaving a minimum of 4" stubble. *On shrubs:* browsing of 50% of available leaders.

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. Maintain all fences that keep livestock out of Sycamore creek.

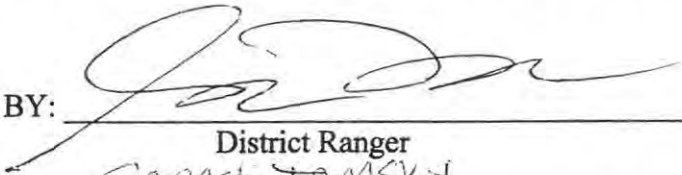
Permittee Comments And Suggestions

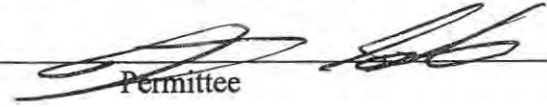
Travel management-

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:  02/10/17
District Ranger Date
SARAH TOMSKY

AGREED TO BY:  2/10/17
Permittee Date