

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**Tex Canyon Allotment
2023 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **2023** grazing season for the **Tex Canyon** allotment. The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

I. AUTHORIZED USE: The annual validation for your term grazing permit has been approved for the following numbers and season:

Authorized Use	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	Horse	AUMs	HMs
	11/1/2023	2/28/2024	120	510				2656	2012
	11/1/2023	2/28/2024	120			30		142	118
	12/1/2023	2/28/2024	90	60		30		341	266
	11/1/2023	2/28/2024	120	56				292	221
	3/1/2023	2/28/2024	365				4	58	48
Total								3488	2666

Non-Use	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	Horse	AUMs	HMs
	11/1/2023	2/28/2024	120	60				312	237
	12/1/2023	2/28/2024	90	60				234	178
Total								547	414

The orange cell represents the Forests' 92% portion of the 60 head present in the on/off pastures. There is non-use for a total of 120 head for range improvement due to the drought during the summer of 2023. Due to the drought, changes to various types of management on your allotment may be needed. Please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan and keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that may affect your allotment.

As always, if utilization levels approach 45%, please be proactive and timely and move your cattle to the next pasture or remove them from the allotment. Term Grazing Permits are required to be stocked to 90% of capacity each grazing season, unless either Personal Convenience or Range Improvement Non-Use has been approved. Personal Convenience Non-Use may be taken for no more than 3 years consecutively and not more than 4 years out of any ten-year period.



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

Proposed Rotation

Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Doane/Finger (On/Off)	3/1/2023	2/28/2024	365				4	58	48
Doane (On/Off)	10/30/2023	2/28/2024	122		56	5		249	245
Limestone	10/30/2023	2/28/2024	122		30	3		135	132
Red Hill	10/30/2023	1/30/2024	93	30	30	5		231	199
Finger	12/1/2023	2/28/2024	90		70	5		225	222
Shake	10/30/2023	12/1/2023	33		50	3		58	58
Lower Tex	10/30/2023	12/1/2023	33		300	20		352	347
Lower Tex	12/2/2023	2/28/2024	89		120	8		379	375
Upper Tex	12/1/2023	2/28/2024	90		220	15		704	695
Juniper	12/1/2023	2/28/2024	90		60	7		202	198
Shake	12/1/2023	2/28/2024	90		40	3		129	127
Grey cells are calculated fields							Applied For	2,722	2646
White cells are editable							Permitted	4222	3314
							Non-Use		
NOTES:									
On/Off Pastures are 92% FS and 8% Private and are billed as such									

Unlike the previous two years where you were authorized to stock the Shake pasture with a large number of livestock for a short period of time, a smaller number will be placed in that pasture due to the lack of live water in Shake Gulch. The majority of the cattle will be placed in the Lower Tex pasture at that time. The cattle will then be distributed among the upper pastures once the first hard freeze in December occurs, where they will remain for the season.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this office in advance. The pasture rotation and the stocking rate in each pasture will be dependent on both water availability as well as forage availability. The distribution of livestock in the pastures should be monitored closely to ensure appropriate distribution and utilization levels. 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, unless specifically mentioned in the rotation schedule.

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.

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.

As requested in the past, you are authorized to use several non-system roads to access several improvements if need-be: the road that accesses Sunset Tank, Bee Tank and the Cemetary Road. These roads should only be used if absolutely necessary to check for bogged livestock or improvement condition and not used on a regular basis.

Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments		
Improvement Type / ID #	Description/Comments	Completion Date
121001	Installed tire troughs, complete with escape ramps	September 9, 2023
121019	Installed tire trough complete with escape ramp and 2,500 gallon storage tank	September 13, 2023

Current Year Improvement Schedule

Permit Mod #	Improvement Type / ID #	Completion Date	Description/Comments	Status Done /Date
	121019/Water System		Replacement of water line. Need approximately 1 mile of 1 ¼" PE pipe	
	Forest Boundary Fence, Finger Pasture/121009		Replace a ½ mile portion of the Forest boundary fence in the Finger pasture in the SE ¼ of section 15. FS will provide posts and smooth wire if it is available.	
	121032/Water System		Repair flood damage on the pipeline and relocate the pipeline out of the drainage bottom. The pipeline will be placed on top of the ground. Some minor road work may be needed on NFSR 719A to accomplish this task.	
	Roads/FSR 719, a.k.a "Sunset Road"	Ongoing	Repair/replace several erosion control structures on the edges of the road where drainage crossings intersect. These structures were installed by the Forest Service using DOC crews. This work may either be done by the permittee or the Forest Service, which ever comes first. Also, the waterbars on the northern portion of the road need fortified and maintained, and you are authorized to use the stockpiled material adjacent to the road for this purpose.	
	Roads/FSR 719A and Water System 121032	Ongoing	Repair several places along this road route. The route also has a pipeline buried under it, and by protecting the road the pipeline will also be protected. You are authorized to use gabion baskets or other types of erosion control structures, like wood and wire structures, to complete this work.	
	Roads/FSR 721	Ongoing	Construct waterbars on the road, directly downstream of the Sunset Ranger Station area, to protect the water pipeline and road route from erosion. The material used to construct the waterbars will be obtained from the adjacent private land.	

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

Keep this copy of these Annual Operating Instructions for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,



DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger