



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: December 15, 2023

Mark and Chris Cline

(b) (6)

Tonto Basin, AZ 85553

Dear Mark and Chris Cline:

The following are your 2024 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Tonto Basin NW grazing allotment. These instructions have been developed from collaboration with you and in consideration of Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, Tonto National Forest Plan, associated National Environmental Policy Act analysis, Allotment Management Plan, and available information describing range conditions.

**Authorized Use**

The following table describes authorized livestock numbers per grazing unit, anticipated use dates, and proposed monitoring dates. Please request a change in this schedule well in advance of the proposed dates. Please, maintain and submit records that indicate your compliance to permitted use.

Grazing Unit	Dates of Use	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
<del>Lemon</del> <i>Isayler</i>	Current December 31, 2023	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	105 Cow/Calf 4 Bulls 103 Yearlings	
Upper Sycamore	January 1, 2024 March 31 <sup>st</sup>	April 8 <sup>th</sup>	105 Cow/Calf 4 Bulls 103 Yearlings	
Lower Sycamore	April 1 <sup>st</sup> May 31 <sup>st</sup>	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	105 Cow/Calf 4 Bulls	
Park Creek	June 1 <sup>st</sup> August 14 <sup>th</sup>	August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	105 Cow/Calf 4 Bulls	
Bucna Vista	August 15 <sup>th</sup> October 31 <sup>st</sup>	November 8 <sup>th</sup>	105 Cow/Calf 4 Bulls	
Ord	November 1 <sup>st</sup> Next AOI	Next AOI	105 Cow/Calf 4 Bulls	



**Monitoring:**

Upland utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. This information, along with vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, will be used to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

Riparian utilization in key reaches is measured during growing season to verify residual vegetation is present for streambank protection during flow events.

Grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season to make necessary changes needed for plant development and recovery.

**Vegetative Use Guidelines:**

Grazing will be managed so conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term in pasture key areas. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed vegetative use thresholds. Please arrange for an allotment inspection if seasonal vegetative use of available forage approaches these thresholds.

<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Use Threshold</b>
Upland herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on deergrass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall.
Streambanks (if applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum
Annual Grasses	50% of current year's growth

**Range Improvement Maintenance:**

All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. You must receive verbal concurrence for each project before work can begin except routine maintenance (e.g. cleaning dirt tanks, maintaining fence, restoring pipe). It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with fire restriction.

The following table describes 2023 range improvement projects.

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Clearances Needed</b>
Long Mesa	South End of Pasture	Place temporary trough within pasture for better distribution	Archéological, Biological reviews needed

Multiple	2021 Tonto Basin NW Range Projects	Three projects combined as one – Fence, Corral and Pipeline	Approved in 2021 all clearances complete.
Long Mesa	South end of pasture	Spring development to trough @ Chubb Thickett	Archeological, Biological, and Hydrological reviews needed
Kayler	China Berry	Place permanent tank for better livestock distribution	Archeological, Biological, and Hydrological reviews needed

**Salting:**

In most cases, salt must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

**Supplements and Attractants**

Protein blocks, nutritional supplement, and other attractant may be authorized.

**Supplemental Feeding:**

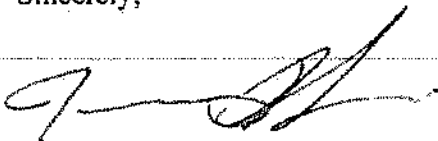
No supplemental feeding is authorized.

**Weeds**

Invasive plants threaten ecosystem health and grazing resources. Please assist us in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hoskins, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (480) 435-5563.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Plain  
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins  
Crystal Martinez  
Ina Yazzie