



File Code: 2230

Date:

April 9, 2024

Keith O. Cannon  
V Bar V Ranch Agricultural Research Station  
4005 North Forest Road 618  
Rimrock, AZ 86335

Dear Keith,

This document serves as your 2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Walker Basin Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

**I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE/APPROVED NON-USE**

Your 2024 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

300 cows	03/01/24 – 02/28/2025
14 Bulls	03/01/24 – 02/28/2025
36-2-year-old heifers	03/01/24 – 02/28/2025

**II. GRAZING SCHEDULE**

**\*Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with prior Forest Service approval.**

The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2024 grazing season:

Pasture	Dates	Total	Cows	2 yo	Bulls
Corrals – winter country	2/08/24 – 3/13/24	300	300		
Winter Heifer	3/14 – 3/28	300	300		
West Wickiup	3/29 – 4/07	300	300		
Middle Wickiup	4/08 – 4/17	300	300		
Hill Lane	4/17 – 4/18	300	300		
Corrals – winter country	4/18 – 4/21	300	300		
Shipping Lane 1	4/22 – 4/25	300	300		
Shipping Lane 2	4/26 – 4/29	300	300		
Cedar Flats B	4/30 – 5/10	300	300		
Cedar Flats D	5/11 – 5/21	300	300		
Cedar Flats C	5/22 – 6/01	314	300		13
Cedar Flats E	6/02 – 6/22	314	300		13



Big Hill	6/23 – 7/12	314	300		13
Horse Knoll	7/13 – 8/03	300	300		
Banfield	8/04 – 8/24	336	300	36	
Pine	8/25 – 9/06	336	300	36	
Wildcat	9/07 – 9/18	336	300	36	
Mahan Private	9/19 – 9/21	336	300	36	
Willow	9/23 – 10/10	336	300	36	
Mahan Park	10/11 – 10/13	336	300	36	
Steer	10/14 – 10/25	336	300	36	
Heifer	10/26 – 11/01	336	300	36	
Snake Ridge East	11/02 – 11/08	336	300	36	
Snake Ridge Middle	11/09 – 11/15	336	300	36	
Snake Ridge West	11/16 – 11/22	336	300	36	
Sugar Loaf	11/23 – 12/02	336	300	36	
Twin Buttes	12/03 – 12/12	336	300	36	
Shipping Lane 5	12/13 – 12/22	336	300	36	
Shipping Lane 3	12/23/24 – 1/02/25	336	300	36	
Cedar Flats F	1/03/25 – 1/12/25	336	300	36	
Cedar Flats A	1/13 – 1/22	336	300	36	
Shipping Lane 2	1/23 – 1/27	336	300	36	
Shipping Lane 1	1/28 – 2/01	336	300	36	

Two (2) year old heifers

Pasture	Dates	Total	Cows	2 yo	Bulls
Corrals Headquarters	3/01 – 5/17	36		36	
Mahan Horse	5/18 – 5/31	37		36	1
Wildcat	6/01 – 6/21	37		36	1
Pine	6/22 – 7/12	37		36	1
Banfield	7/13 – 8/03	37		36	1
Combine with cows	8/04	37		36	1

Bull Specific

Pasture	Dates	Total	Bulls
Corrals Headquarters	3/01 – 5/21	14	14
With Cows	5/22	13	13
Mahan Corrals	7/14 – 07/20	14	14
Mahan Horse	7/21 – 8/03	14	14
Underpass	8/04 – 11/15	14	14
Corrals-winter country	11/16/24 – 2/28/25	14	14

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2024 Grazing Season: North Montezuma, Bull, Upper and Lower Walker Basin, and Harris Park.

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).

### **III. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

#### **Range Improvement Maintenance**

Range improvements assigned to you for maintenance have been identified in red on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, section 8i). 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; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning.

New fence projects will be implemented only with prior approval and after a successful completion /clearance of both biological and archeological surveys from Forest Service personnel. New fencing will be done to USFS standards and guidelines.

**\*\*Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management Specialist at least 60 days prior to beginning any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment (ex. maintenance of earthen stock tanks).**

Scheduled for Projects/Maintenance:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Completion</b>
Upper Walker Basin pasture	Drift or gap fencing	2024-2025
Lower Walker Basin pasture	Pipeline to distribute cattle away from Walker Creek	2024-2025

### **IV. 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 Coconino National Forest 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.)

**Page 9 of the Term Grazing Permit: Salt or mineral supplement locations should be rotated annually and avoid areas where livestock concentrations could cause excessive vegetation trampling, soil loss or disturbance to sensitive species or habitats. These areas would**

include habitat that supports Mexican spotted owls, northern goshawks, rare plants, riparian vegetation, meadows or locations closer than ¼ mile from a water source.

#### **V. PORTABLE WATER HAULING**

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. Sites need to be approved before troughs are placed on site, may need archeological clearance. All troughs need to follow the same conditions as if they were permanent; like wildlife ramps/logs, placed on flat ground, etc. (see page 8 of Term Permit).

#### **VI. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed our area in a Moderate drought. It was agreed that due to the above factors as well as that with the current precipitation conditions and the fact that there was abundant forage left over at the end of the growing season the livestock numbers would remain the same unless the allotment moves into a negative drought status.

See Allotment Management Plan (AMP)

#### **VII. GRAZING STRATEGY**

The management of livestock pasture moves will be based on both a plant forage phenology scheme of management and proper allowable grazing use. Pasture rotations would be planned at the onset of spring but may be modified later in response to environmental changes, such as drought or a wet season.

**Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the other. Once a pasture move occurs, cattle are not authorized to graze outside the newly occupied pasture.** In the event cattle escape the assigned pasture (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattle guards become filled, cut fences, etc.), the permittee will return the cattle to the correct pasture in a timely manner. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, your allotment's rested pastures, or from re-grazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

Permitted livestock (cow/calf/heifer/bull) will be run together as a single herd until the bulls are removed from the cow herd while utilizing a deferred rotation. Gates are to be left open at water-lots when cattle leave a pasture if not used by the neighboring pasture.

#### **VIII. RESOURCE MONITORING**

Allowable Grazing Intensity/Utilization Guidelines

Grazing Intensity:

Grazing intensity is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Grazing intensity would be managed to allow for the physiological needs of plants, as a result, the planned use period indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II) in a pasture may be lengthened or shortened depending on forage intensity in key areas.

#### Forage Utilization:

Utilization is defined as the proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. This allowable use level includes both livestock and wildlife. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable use before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used.

#### Upland areas

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in upland areas is 30% on key species in areas of unsatisfactory soils.

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in upland areas is 40% on key species in areas of satisfactory soils.

#### Riparian Areas

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in riparian areas is 40% on key graminoid species and 20% on woody vegetation.

A maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on key woody species is acceptable if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. If the mid-age class is absent, the maximum allowable utilization level on key woody species will be limited to 5%.

#### Permittee Monitoring

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the 2024 grazing year: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) 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.**

The permittee is encouraged to participate in the monitoring.

### **IX. FIRE**

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten-foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger, the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power

saws, heavy equipment, ATVs, and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (928-527-3552). Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

#### **X. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS**

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities.

Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.

Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation proceedings. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized under a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. (See Permit)

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Rangeland Management Specialist, Kathy Sevy at (928) 203-7537 or, Noelle Resignolo at (928) 203-7517.

SINCERELY,



ALEX SCHLUETER  
District Ranger

