



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: January 22<sup>th</sup> 2014

(b) (6)

Walnut Allotment

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Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2014 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Walnut 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	Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Juniper	January 1 <sup>st</sup> February 15 <sup>th</sup>	February 14 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 Bulls 34 Yearlings	
Rocky Dublin	February 16 <sup>th</sup> March 29 <sup>th</sup>	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 Bulls 34 Yearlings	
Lann	March 30 <sup>th</sup> April 26 <sup>th</sup>	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 Bulls 34 Yearlings	Any cattle kept after May 31 <sup>st</sup> will need to be billed as cows.
Cottonwood/Haystack	April 17 <sup>th</sup> July 19 <sup>th</sup>	July 18 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 Bulls	Use pastures together due to lack of water in Haystack
Edward Spring	July 20 <sup>th</sup> October 25 <sup>th</sup>	October 24 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 Bulls	
Walnut	October 26 <sup>th</sup> December 13 <sup>th</sup>	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 Bulls	
Juniper	December 14 <sup>th</sup> January 31 <sup>st</sup>	January 30 <sup>th</sup>	48 Cows 3 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 2014 authorized range improvement projects.

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Clearances Needed</b>
Lann Pasture	Cottonwood Water System	Connect existing trough to existing pipeline	Existing improvement, coordinate with District
Cottonwood	Cottonwood Stock	Clean existing stock	Contact district prior

	Tank	tank	to cleaning tank
Juniper Canyon	Tank #3935	Clean out existing stock tank	Archeological clearance needed for walking dozer in.
Haystack	Lower Haystack Tank	Clean out existing stock tank	Existing improvement, coordinate with District
Rocky Dublin	FS Road 71 Corral	Replace torn down corral	Part of current EA, needs Archeological Clearance
<p><i>*Planned projects are listed in a current Environmental Assessment for the Allotment and may be implemented based on the impending NEPA decision.</i></p>			

**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, Range Management Specialist, at (928) 467-3236.

Sincerely,

KELLY L. JARDINE  
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins  
Ina Yazzie