



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto Basin
Ranger
District

28079 N HWY 188
Roosevelt, AZ 85545
Phone: 602.225.5395
Fax: 602.225.5354

File Code: 2210

Date: January 13, 2021

O-C Ranch LLC.

(b) (6)

Dear O-C Ranch

The following are your 2021 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	Current Using January 30 th	February 8 th	101 Cow/calf 5 Bulls 87 yearlings	
Rocky Dublin	January 31 st March 27 th	March 30 th	101 Cow/calf 5 Bulls 87 yearlings	
Haystack	Currently Using March 15 th	March 23 rd	24 cows 1 Bull	Currently used by Browns will reassess or rest
Lann	March 28 th May 15 th	May 24 th	101 Cow/calf 5 Bulls 87 yearlings	All cattle must be out of this pasture by no later than May 15 th .
Cottonwood	May 16 th July 17 th	July 22 nd	101 Cow/calf 5 Bulls	
Edward Spring	July 18 th September 25 th	September 30 th	101 Cow/calf 5 Bulls	
Walnut	September 26 th November 20 th	November 29 th	101 Cow/calf 5 Bulls	
Juniper	November 21 st Next AOI	Next AOI	101 Cow/calf 5 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.

Vegetation	Use Threshold
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 2021 proposed range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Edwards Spring	Blue Bird Pit	Build new corral near blue bird pit then run a pipeline to the corral.	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.

Edwards Spring	Artesian Well	Run a pipeline from the artesian well to cottonwood pasture	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.
Walnut/Juniper	Walnut Spring	Add new pipeline to Walnut Spring and into the Juniper Pasture then add new storage and troughs	Decision Memo signed, work with staff to implement this project.
Haystack	Rocky Dublin Corral down	Run a pipeline from the 71 Corral down fence line to two new troughs	Needs an Archeological and Biological Clearance and Decision Memo prior to any work.

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 (480) 435-5563.

Sincerely,

KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger

CC: Eric Hoskins
Crystal Martinez
Ina Yazzie