



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: December 10, 2021

(b) (6)

O-C Ranch

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Dear (b) (6)

The following are your 2022 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	Tentative Monitoring Date	Authorized Livestock	Rationale/Comments
Juniper	November 21 <sup>st</sup> 2021 January 29 <sup>th</sup> 2022	January 7 <sup>th</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 102 Yearlings 4 Horses	
Rocky Dublin	January 30 <sup>th</sup> March 12 <sup>th</sup>	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 102 Yearlings 4 Horses	
Haystack	March 13 <sup>th</sup> April 16 <sup>th</sup>	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 102 Yearlings 4 Horses	
Lann	April 17 <sup>th</sup> May 14 <sup>th</sup>	May 16 <sup>th</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 102 Yearlings 4 Horses	All cattle must be removed by May 15 <sup>th</sup>
Cottonwood	May 15 <sup>th</sup> July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls	



			4 Horses	
Edward Springs	July 24 <sup>th</sup> September 24 <sup>th</sup>	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 4 Horses	
Walnut	September 25 <sup>th</sup> October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	October 31 <sup>st</sup>	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 4 Horses	
Juniper	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> Next AOI	Next AOI	117 Cow/Calf 6 Bulls 4 Horses	

**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 2022 proposed range improvement projects.

Pasture	Location	Description of Work	Clearances Needed
Rocky Dublin	Water Haul Tank	Add pipeline and two troughs to move cattle away from road	Archeological
Cottonwood/Edwards Spring	Artesian	Add Pipeline and two troughs	Water rights need clarified all other clearances complete.
Walnut/Juniper/Edwards	Walnut Spring	Allow overflow from Northern Walnut Sp. project into Dirt Tank, Gravity feed from storage tank to Juniper corral and add a pipeline and trough in Edwards Spring Pasture.	Need Archeological, Biological and Hydrology review prior to any decision.

**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