

**DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT  
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST  
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION (AOI)**

**West Whitetail Allotment  
2024 Grazing Year**

This letter will serve as your annual operating instructions for the **West Whitetail** allotment.

**LAUTHORIZED USE/ROTATION SCHEDULE:** The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the West Whitetail (Crossed J) Allotment:

<b>Authorized Use</b>										
Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yring	Horse	AUMs	HMs
West Whitetail	3/1/2024	5/6/2024	67	33					73	73
West Whitetail	6/1/2024	9/1/2024	93							
West Whitetail	12/1/2024	1/10/2025	41	32		2	5		51	53
<b>Total</b>									<b>124</b>	<b>125</b>

<b>Non-Use</b>										
Allotment	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yring	Horse	AUMs	HMs
West Whitetail										
West Whitetail										
<b>Total</b>									<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Reason:** N/A. Full permitted numbers are stocked at various times throughout the year.

**Proposed Rotation**

Pasture	Acres in Pasture	Date On	Date Off	# of Days	# of Cows w/calf	Dry Cows	# of Bulls	# Yring	Horse	AUMs	HMs
Upper Whitetail		3/2/2024	3/30/2024	29	23	5		5		30	31
Lower Whitetail		4/1/2024	5/6/2024	36	23	5		5		37	39
Off Forest		5/7/2024	12/1/2024								
Niagra		12/1/2024	1/10/2025	41	31	2	3	5		54	55
<b>Applied For</b>									<b>121</b>	<b>126</b>	
<b>Permitted</b>									<b>214</b>	<b>214</b>	

Actual dates may vary dependent upon climatic conditions, when utilization levels are reached, and time required to remove cattle. Pasture rotation is designed to incorporate growing season rest or deferment to allow for grazed plant recovery. Pastures grazed during the summer growing season (July – September) will not be grazed during the growing season the following year.

Term Grazing Permits are required to be stocked to 90% of capacity each grazing season, unless either Personal Convenience or Range Improvement Non-Use has been approved. Personal Convenience Non-Use may be taken for no more than 3 years consecutively and not more than 4 years out of any ten-year period.

As forage and water diminishes in Upper Whitetail, the gate to Lower Whitetail will be opened and allow the cattle to drift down the canyon.

If you should need to deviate from this rotation schedule by more than two weeks, please notify this office in advance. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures (unless specified) or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.



Due to the ongoing drought we all are experiencing in this region, changes to various types of management are needed in most cases. Please keep the natural resource conditions in the forefront of your mind when making management decisions that affect your allotment, and please keep the range staff here at the Douglas District well informed of any deviation from your proposed plan.

Please be sure to not exceed the permitted number of livestock.

## **II. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS:**

Utilization in all pastures is not to exceed 45% in the key areas. Please refer to your key area map. Herding and salting will be used to ensure allowable use is not exceeded. If allowable use is in danger of being exceeded, the cattle should be removed from that pasture until the range recovers. Salt and supplement will be placed appropriately, on good feed, at least ¼ mile from water and out of livestock concentration areas and more than 200 feet from roads. Salt and supplement locations should be rotated so as not to degrade a particular site. Salt blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, or roads. Blocks should be placed on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.

## **III. MONITORING:**

The permittee will record actual use as it occurs, including livestock numbers and dates permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual operating instruction meeting. Common implementation monitoring includes forage production, forage utilization, photo points, condition of improvements, actual use and precipitation data.

## **IV. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE:**

The Forest Service may spot check range improvements before the entry date to ensure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed.

All troughs should have water when livestock are not present and be equipped so that small animals can safely enter and exit.

New range improvements and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated until proper archeological clearances have been obtained. When improvements are completed the permittee will inform District Range personnel to schedule an inspection. Before using machinery to clean any pond, the permittee is required to give the District Office at least 30 days advance notice so that the tank can be inspected for threatened or endangered species. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval by the District Ranger. Improvement schedule is dependent upon funding.

<b>Previous Year Improvement Accomplishments</b>				
<b>Permit Mod #</b>	<b>Improvement Type / ID #</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Description/Comments</b>	<b>Status Done /Date</b>
	Trails		Trail work	March/April 2023
	Roads		Road Maintenance	March 2023
	Fence Work		Fence Work	Sept 2023

<b>Current Year Improvement Schedule</b>				
<b>Permit Mod #</b>	<b>Improvement Type / ID #</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Description/Comments</b>	<b>Status Done /Date</b>
	Fence/Timber Mountain		Continue fence maintenance along Timber Mountain ridge.	
	Trails/Roads		Continue work on repairing allotment stock trails/roads	Ongoing

#### **V. REFUNDS AND CREDIT OF GRAZING FEES PAID (FSM 2238.11g)**

Refunds will only be approved where the term grazing permit has been waived, the waiver of term grazing permit has been confirmed by the authorized officer, and a new permit issued to a qualified applicant indicated on the waiver of term grazing permit (FS-2200-12), or if a current permittee has applied for, and the authorized officer has approved, nonuse for which grazing fees have previously been paid.

Grazing fee credits will be approved when late entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the permittee for legitimate reasons and/or when delayed entry or early removal of livestock is requested by the authorized officer for reasons of resource protection. Credit for grazing fees will not be approved merely for the convenience of the permittee after the bill for collection is issued.

#### **VI. PROTECTION:**

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only. Please report all fires to the Tucson Interagency Fire Coordination Center at 1-800-549-0661.

## **VII. PERMIT CONDITIONS:**

This Annual Operating Instruction is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

Keep this copy of these Annual Operating Instruction for your personal files. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DOUG RUPPEL  
District Ranger