

**2019-2020 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
WILLIAMSON VALLEY ALLOTMENT**

Cross U Ranch

The objectives of these instructions are, prior to the grazing season, to:

- identify specific management tools/resource objectives for this grazing season
- review general permit administration and livestock management requirements, and
- document any needs or agreements beyond the standard directions.

AUTHORIZATION

Upon payment of fees livestock are authorized as follows for 2019 - 2020:

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified to meet utilization)</u>
225	Whiskey	3/1/19 - 3/23/19
225	Burnt	3/24/19 - 4/23/19
225	HDQs	4/24/19 - 4/30/19
225	Humphreys	5/1/19 - 6/25/19
225	Cottonwood	6/26/19 - 8/30/19
225	Little Pine/Creek	9/1/19 - 10/15/19
225	HDQs	10/16/19 - 10/25/19
225	Stinson	10/26/19 - 2/28/20
4 Horses	Follow cattle	3/1/19 - 2/28/20

- The Forest Officer must be given actual use, by pasture, after livestock are off the allotment.
- Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if a week or two in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer promptly.
- Move your livestock regardless of the date shown above, to avoid exceeding utilization levels. If utilization levels are appropriate then livestock moves must be 90% accomplished by the dates given above.
- You are responsible for your representatives and/or employees following all Forest Officer instructions.

ALLOWABLE USE

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met, no matter what the dates on paper are.

The following is maximum allowable use:

- A management guideline of 35-45% utilization of key forage plants in upland key areas as measured at the end of the growing season or seasonal use period;
- Up to 50-60% leaders browsed on key upland woody species;
- Minimum stubble height on key riparian herbaceous species: four to six inches where sedges and rushes are key and eight inches where deergrass is key;

- Up to 20% use by weight on key woody species within riparian areas; or less than 50% of terminal leaders browsed on woody species less than 6 feet tall.

Failure to remove your cattle to avoid use above the allowable levels is a violation of these instructions and the terms of your grazing permit.

SALT AND SUPPLEMENTS

The thoughtful placement of salt, mineral, and protein is a valuable distribution aid. Salt will not be located in heavy use areas, including within ¼ mile of water (including springs and seeps). Instead, place supplements on the uplands to draw livestock to areas that normally receive only light use.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance will follow the standards in your Part 3 of your grazing permit. In addition to routine maintenance, the following is planned for this year:

- + Complete Double LL well project on South Mex
- Install 2 cattle guards on Merritt trail, work with trails
- Roll up waterlots at Sec 30B + NE Double LL

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

- Light utilization levels (30% or less) and integrated rest periods for Little Pine and Whiskey pastures (TEUI 48), Tailholt pasture (TEUI 490).
- Incidental (0-30%) grazing Humphreys pasture (east) (TEUIs 461, 462, 481, and 490). No practices to draw livestock (water and supplement placement) would occur.
- Rest or deferment,
 - Burnt pasture (TEUI 48), to allow freeze-thaw cycles to improve soil compaction.
 - Camp Wood pasture (TEUI 542), to encourage grass plant establishment and litter development that can alleviate soil compaction.

PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Prescott National Forest designated a system of roads and trails that are open to motor vehicle use in 1989 through Forest Plan Amendment #4. Motor vehicle use off the designated road system by the permit holder to conduct activities associated with administration of the term grazing permit is allowed under the terms and conditions of the term grazing permit.

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Failure to follow 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. (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.)

APPROVED BY:  2/14/19
 District Ranger Date

AGREED TO BY:  2/14/19
 Permittee Date

2018 2019
Pasture Rotation

3-23-19 Whiskey
3-24-19 Burnt
3-1-19 till 4-23-19 Whiskey and Burnt pastures
4-24-19 till 4-30-19 Headquarters - *Brand 26th*
5-1-19 till 6-25-19 Humphreys
6-26 till 8-30-19 Cottonwood
9-1-19 till 10-15-19 Little Pine/ Creek
10-16-19 till 10-25-19 Headquarters - *Wean*
10-26-19 till 2-28-20 Stinson

2018 2019
Actual Use

3-1-18 till 3-19-18 Creek
3-20-18 till 4-9-18 Lower Hit
4-10-18 till 4-25-18 Upper Hit
4-26-18 till 5-1-18 Headquarters
5-2-18 till 7-25-18 Tailholt (due to good monsoon activity feed allowed Tailholt to be extended)
7-26-18 till 9-15-18 Camp Wood (due to good monsoon activity feed allowed Camp Wood to be extended and Cottonwood not to be utilized. In addition due to some burned fence and gates being left open in camp wood approximately 40 head of cattle were able to get into Stinson and Cottonwood pastures. Those were not completely gathered until 1-15-19)
9-15-18 till 10-1-18 Little Pine
10-2-18 till 10-10-18 Headquarters

10-11-18 till 2-28-19 Brushy

2018 2019
Improvements / Maintenance

Tanks / Springs cleaned

- 1) Humphrey Tank
- 2) Sawmill Tank
- 3) Tailholt Spring
- 4) Upper Tailholt Spring
- 5) Lakin Spring
- 6) Sec 30 Spring
- 7) Brushy Mountain Spring
- 8) L.O. Spring

Rebuilt Humphrey Tank waterlot

Installed storage tank and solar pump on windmill @ forest road 666

The Cross U Ranch purchased 25 private acres in Fair Oaks subdivision (parcel is in sec 27 of tailholt pasture) with the intent of improving water and livestock handling capabilities for Tailholt pasture.

2019 2020
Proposed Improvements

Complete Double LL well project on south mesa road in Stinson
Pasture

Improve private property in Fair Oaks to include well with drinker,
fence property for small holding pasture, and install shipping coral.

Renew maintenance agreement for forest roads 95c, 9871b, and 666