



File Code: 2230

Date: Sept 11, 2024

Robert Randall
Muleshoe X Cattle Company
PO Box 185
Pine, AZ 85544

Dear Robert,

This document serves as your 2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Willow Valley Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE/APPROVED NON-USE

Your 2022 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

132 cow/calf pairs	June 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024
8 Bulls	June 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024
3 horses	June 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual stocking level (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking level is based on current and expected forage production. The planned use period in a pasture and livestock numbers can/should be adjusted if conditions change, either (shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability but not in excess of the permitted numbers and utilization in key areas).

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with prior Forest Service Approval.

The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2024 grazing season:

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
Cow Herd		
Riparian	6/01 – 6/15	132 cow/calf pairs & 8 bulls
D7	6/16 – 7/16	132 cow/calf pairs & 8 bulls
Antelope	7/17 – 8/17	132 cow/calf pairs & 8 bulls
Mud Lake	8/18 – 9/20	132 cow/calf pairs & 8 bulls
Deer	9/21 – 10/03	132 cow/calf pairs & 8 bulls
Randall	10/04 – 10/31	132 cow/calf pairs & 8 bulls
Horses		
Private Land	6/01 – 10/31	3 horses



Note: heavy camping in Deer pasture is affecting the grazing schedule.

III. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

To aid in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed our area is in drought conditions. If conditions should worsen on the allotment than additional livestock may be removed in consultation with the permittee.

See Allotment Management Plan (AMP)

IV. GRAZING STRATEGY

The management of livestock pasture moves will be based on both a plant forage phenology scheme of management and proper allowable grazing use. Pasture rotations would be planned at the onset of spring and may be modified later in response to environmental changes, such as drought or a wet season.

Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the other. Once a pasture move occurs, cattle are not authorized to graze outside the newly occupied pasture. In the event cattle escape the assigned pasture (i.e., pasture gates left open, cattle guards become filled, cut fences, etc.), the permittee will return the cattle to the correct pasture in a timely manner. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, the allotment's rested pastures, or from re-grazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

Permitted livestock (cow/calf/heifer/bull) will be run together as a single herd until the bulls are removed from the cow herd while utilizing a deferred rotation. Gates are to be left open at water-lots when cattle leave a pasture if not used by the neighboring pasture.

V. RESOURCE MONITORING

Allowable Grazing Intensity/Utilization Guidelines

Grazing Intensity

Grazing intensity is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Grazing intensity would be managed to allow for the physiological needs of plants, as a result, the planned use period indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II) in a pasture may be lengthened or shortened depending on forage intensity in key areas.

Forage Utilization

Utilization is defined as the proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. This allowable use level includes both livestock and wildlife. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable use before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used.

Upland areas:

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in upland areas is 40% on key species.

Riparian Areas:

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in riparian areas is 40% on key grass species.

A maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on key woody species is acceptable if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. If the mid-age class is absent, the maximum allowable utilization level on key woody species will be limited to 5%.

Permittee Monitoring

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the 2024 grazing year: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers.

***It is very important that this Actual Use form be completed and submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the grazing year.**

The permittee is encouraged to participate in the Intensity/Utilization/Trend Monitoring.

VI. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

There are two (2) grazing mitigation documents that include grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl and the Chiricahua leopard frog. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures; Forest Service personnel will field check your compliance with these mitigation requirements. (See AMP)

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Structural Range Improvements

New fence projects will be implemented only with prior approval and after a successful completion/clearance of both biological and archeological surveys from Forest Service personnel.

Range Improvement Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you for maintenance have been identified in red on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest may replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning. **Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management specialist at least 60 days prior to beginning any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment (ex. Maintenance of earthen stock tanks).**

Scheduled for Maintenance

Project	Completion Date
Rebuild minimum of a ¼ to 1/2 mile of boundary fence to Forest Standards between Bar T Bar, Pivot Rock and Willow Valley Allotments	

VIII. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Coconino National Forest Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; (See AMP and Term Grazing Permit for the complete list of the guidelines.)

IX. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. (See AMP for requirements)

X. FIRE

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, 10 lb. fire extinguisher and/or water. All open camp and branding fires require a ten-foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger, the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATV's and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (**928-527-3552**). Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities.

Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.

Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation proceedings. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized under a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. (See Permit)

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Kathy Sevy at (928) 203 – 7537, Noelle Resignolo at (928) 963 – 1034, or Donna Fouts at (928) 203 – 7530.

Sincerely,

ROCHELLE PLOCEK
Acting District Ranger

