

2002-2003
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SMITH CANYON ALLOTMENT

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.

II. AUTHORIZATION In 2002 - 2003 you are authorized to graze:

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified to meet utilization)</u>
250 cows/bulls	Private	3/1-6/1
250 "	Smith Canyon	6/2-8/15
250 cows/bulls	Smith Mesa	8/16-11/1
225 cows	Spider	11/2-2/28
25 bulls	Jones	11/2-2/28
5 horses	Allotment-wide	3/1-2/28

III. ADMINISTRATION These procedures will be followed:

1. Pay the grazing fee before placing livestock on the allotment. In case livestock have to be removed credit for unused grazing fees may be granted, providing the permittee submits a credit application at or about the time of livestock removal. Credit forms are available at the District Office.
2. Sub-leasing is prohibited. You must own the livestock placed on the allotment. They must be branded with a brand registered in your name. A current copy of your brand certificate must be on file at the District Office.
3. Request non-use, if need be, in writing at least 30 days prior to the grazing period.
4. Record actual use as it occurs. [Your good job of keeping past actual use records is appreciated.] You will be asked to provide the Forest Officer actual use records next fall.
5. Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if 7 days in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer as soon as possible.
6. Move your livestock regardless of the date shown in Section II to avoid exceeding utilization levels.
6. Continued. Changes in management practices may be requested to address utilization concerns. See Allowable Use, Section V. You will have an opportunity to field check utilization with the Forest Officer if so indicated in Monitoring, Section VI. At least 14 days prior notice of an early move date will be given.
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7. Start as early as needed to accomplish pasture moves on time. At least 90% of the permitted livestock must be moved when utilization is reached (the date in Section II is only an estimate) or when specified by the Forest Officer. Actively gather remaining strays after the specified date, aiming to complete the job within 2 weeks.

8. Forest personnel may spot check improvement maintenance. Livestock will not be allowed to enter a pasture if fences would not keep livestock where they are placed.

9. You are responsible for your representatives and/or employees following all Forest Officer instructions.

IV. KEY AREAS Key areas need to be developed with your help. A key area is used to monitor forage, browse and soil conditions. There is a minimum of one per grazing unit. A key area is normally 1/4 to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and is readily accessible for grazing. If high riparian potential is present (generally described as areas with 3-4 obligate riparian species) it will be a key area.

V. ALLOWABLE USE The rotation, season of use, and livestock numbers are indicated in Section II. Adjustments in the duration of use or numbers, will be made if allowable use is about to be exceeded. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met. Minimizing forage use in areas livestock prefer is important. Some encouraged practices are closing off waters, moving salt, and herding.

Maximum allowable use follows. *On grasses:* The allowable use in areas other than riparian is from the current Range Analysis and Management Handbook. (Section 53.2). The percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. Dormant plant utilization can be 1/2 higher than the numbers shown on the list below. For example, the 30% level shown for blue grama can be 45% if the plant is not actively growing. The utilization levels in the list below are intended for during active growth. The allowable use in riparian areas is the minimum suggested by Clary and Webster, 1989, after a review of literature that examined the results of riparian grazing management. *On shrubs:* allowable use in riparian areas is interpreted from the Prescott National Forest Plan.

List of possible key species and maximum allowable use during periods of growth, on areas other than riparian:

- Side Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtinpendula*) 35%
- Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) 30%
- Black Grama (*Bouteloua eripoda*) 30%
- Hairy Grama (*Bouteloua hirsuta*) 30%
- Curly Mesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*) 30%
- Tobosa (*Hilaria mutica*) 30%
- Junegrass (*Koeleria cristata*) 30%
- Squirrel Tail (*Sitanion hystrix*) 30%
- Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus crytandrus*) 25%
- New Mexico Needle grass (*Heterostipa neomexicana*) 20%
- Three Awn (*Aristida* species) 40%
- Western Wheat Grass (*Agropyron smithii*) 40%

Mountain Mahogany 40% of available leaders browsed
Ceanothus 40% of available leaders browsed
Apache plume 40% of available leaders browsed

Key species and maximum allowable use in riparian areas include:

Blue grass (*Poa pratensis*) 3" stubble height
Deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) 4" stubble
Sedges (*Carex* species all) 4" stubble height
Wire grass (*Juncus* species all) 4" stubble height
All riparian woody species: 20% utilization

VI. MONITORING PLANNED

None planned at time of approval of these instructions. If a high priority need arises for monitoring, it will be accomplished.

VII. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK *Requirements:* Salt and protein block will not be placed within a quarter mile of water. Place blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Remove blocks when allowable use has been met. *Suggestions:* Ideally, salt and mineral more than one-half mile from water helps widen livestock use. Moving salt to lightly used areas also helps. *Exception:* If a protein supplement must be placed near water according to the label; this is acceptable.

VIII. FIRE PREVENTION The permittee and their agents, employees, contractors, and sub-contractors will take all reasonable precautions to prevent fires, make efforts to suppress fires without endangering lives, and report fires on or endangering the National Forest as soon as practical.

Work involving the use of heavy equipment will be done only with prior approval. Under red flag conditions the equipment will be inspected to insure that the spark arrestor and muffler system meets Forest Service standards.

IX. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS Maintenance and construction of range improvements that disturbs the ground must not take place until proper archeological and biological clearances have been obtained from the Chino Valley District. Maintaining fences and water developments by hand is excepted from this requirement.

Maintenance will follow the standards in your Part 3 of your grazing permit.

List below those range improvements planned for heavy maintenance or new construction prior to October 2001:

XIV. PERMIT CONDITIONS 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.)

Approval of these Annual Operating Instructions is a decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 251. Appeals must be fully consistent with 36CFR 251.90 "Contents of Notice of Appeal, ". Appeals must be filed with Mike King, Forest Supervisor, 344 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona 86303 with a copy simultaneously sent to Ernie del Rio, District Ranger, 344 South Cortez, Prescott, Arizona, 86303 within 45 days of the date of decision.

APPROVED BY:  12/11/01
~~District Ranger~~ Date

AGREED TO BY: Signature Redacted for Privacy Reasons 12/11/01
Permittee Date