

2024 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Harden Cienega Allotment #408

Prepared By: _____ **Date:** _____

District Range Specialist

Approved By: _____ **Date:** _____

District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kaitlin Burrows & Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with the (Permittee) on January 31, 2024, to discuss management of the Harden Cienega Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and class of livestock	Dates
716 Cattle-Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
85 Cattle-Yearlings	03/01 – 10/31
85 Cattle-Yearlings	01/01 – 02/28
10 Horses - Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Harden Cienega Allotment Annual Authorization

Number and class of livestock authorized	Dates Authorized
450 Cattle-Cow/Calf (includes 50 bulls)	03/01 - 02/28
15 Horses -Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Rotation

Number	Kind and Class	Rotation Date	Pasture
450	Cow/Calf	03/01 – 06/01	Prospect/Baldy/SI
450	Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/01	Prospect
450	Cow/Calf	10/01-02/28	New Mexico (225)
450	Cow/Calf	10/01 – 02/28	SI (225)
15*	Horses	03/01 – 02/28	Bull
*	Holding/Weaning	03/01-02/28	Steer/Heifer

*As needed until utilization levels (conservative = 31-40%) are met. Horses are grazed 6 months a year or until utilization levels are met.

**** Rest New Mexico and Baldy in Growing season**

NOTE: The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved verbally or in writing. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

The permittee is responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization and moving livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. The permittee is responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of livestock. In the event livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, it is required to find, gather, and return those animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit should be maintained in a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

- NRCS scheduled projects, refer to CRMP as needed.
- Refer to Actual Use form for completed projects.

IV. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

For the protection of Threatened and Endangered species, the San Francisco River, Mule Creek, Harden Cienega Creek, and Coal Creek have designated exclusion areas.

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing.

V. MODIFICATIONS

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District. Change requests should be made in advance so that field inspections (if necessary) can be conducted. Approval of changes to this AOI may be verbal or written, depending on the nature of the change requested. Verbal changes will be documented to your file for record keeping purposes. Failure to follow the direction provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown if you have any questions or concerns.