

2024 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Mule Creek Allotment #414

Prepared By:

District Range Specialist

Date: _____

Approved By:

District Ranger

Date: _____

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kaitlin Burrows and Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with the (Permittee) on Tuesday January 23, 2024, to discuss management of the Mule Creek 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 |
|--|---------------|
| 150 Cattle-Cow/Calf | 03/01 – 02/28 |
| 4 Horses – Saddle (not to exceed 24 head months) | 03/01 – 02/28 |

Mule Creek Allotment Annual Authorization

| Number and class of livestock | Dates |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 130 Cattle-cow/Calf | 03/01 – 02/28 |
| 4 horses (saddle) | 03/01 – 02/28 |

Mule Creek Allotment Pasture Rotation

| Class of Livestock | Rotation Date | Pasture |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Cow/calf | 03/01 – 05/30 | Wildcat |
| Cow/calf | 06/01 – 10/30 | Sawmill |
| Cow/calf | 11/01 – 02/28 | Wildcat |
| | | |
| Horses (Saddle) | 03/01 – 02/28 | With Cattle |

* Holding pastures will be used for holding, branding, shipping, doctoring, etc. and horses as needed. Livestock can remain in these pastures until allowable use is reached.

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 are to be maintained in a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Range improvements planned for repair/reconstruction in 2024:

- Pipeline from Sawmill Well to Trap Corral 4238

IV. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment. 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.