

2023 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Copper Creek Allotment #412

Prepared By: /s/ Signatures
District Range Specialist

Date: 1/13/2023

Approved By: /s/ Signatures
District Ranger

Date: 1/17/2023

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Yolanda O'Connell (Permittee) on January 13, 2023 to discuss current grazing year management of the Copper Creek Allotment 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
80 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
5 horses (saddle)	03/01 – 02/28

Allotment Annual Authorization

Number and class of livestock	Dates Authorized
80 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
3 horses (saddle)	03/01 – 02/28

Allotment Pasture Rotation

Class of	Rotation	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31	Silver
Cow/Calf	04/01 – 05/30	Stout Mesa
Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/15	Indian Creek
Cow/Calf	10/15 – 02/28	Bearwallow

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

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water for livestock distribution is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are

responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your 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.

- District personnel (FS) are proposing to reconstruct the Lower and Upper Bearwallow enclosure/trap fencing, replacing the barbed wire construction with pipe-rail. In 2021 environmental clearances were approved with the plan of reconstruction in 2022-23. Along with reconstruction of the enclosures, clearances and funding will be attained for two corrals (one each in Indian Creek and Bearwallow pastures) to replace the use of the enclosures/traps and the loss of use by cattle. COMPLETED 2022
- Any gaps/trails in the bluffs that constitute your southern exterior boundary near Mineral Creek must be continued to be “plugged” so that cattle cannot stray to the south of Mineral Creek.

You have made good progress in maintaining your assigned boundary fences. Please continue to keep these fences in good repair.

IV. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

The following areas are of special management concern:

- Bearwallow Park
- Waterman Spring
- Copper Creek
- Mineral Creek Riparian area
- Indian Creek

No salting is permitted within ¼ mile of these locations. You are expected to monitor use and move cattle when use is approaching allowable levels. These areas are considered critical grazing areas.

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative or 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.