

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2024 Grazing Season
(3/01/2024-2/28/2025)

Reserve Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Leggett Allotment



Agreed To By: Permittee

Date: 12/15/2023

Approved By: Bret Ruff
Bret Ruff, Deputy Forest Supervisor

Date: 12/18/2023



2024 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Leggett

Permittee: Michael Keith Taylor

Permit Number: 61447

Permitted Use:

| Permittee | Numbers | Type | Season |
|----------------------|--------------|------|-----------|
| Michael Keith Taylor | 101 Cow/Calf | Term | 3/01-2/28 |

1. Authorization: Authorized to graze the following in 2024:

| Permittee | Numbers | Type | Season |
|----------------------|--------------|------|-----------|
| Michael Keith Taylor | 101 Cow/Calf | Term | 3/01-2/28 |
| Michael Keith Taylor | 5 Horses | Term | 3/01-2/28 |

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

- a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in “**writing**” and “**in advance**” by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Reserve Ranger District Office. **Note:** Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is \$100.00 or more and District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

Bovine Trichinosis: Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if under 12 months of age. Bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have a negative trich test within 30 days prior to entry. **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico. Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls sold within the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details.

2. Management: Leggett 2024 Pasture Rotation:

| Pasture | Time Frame |
|---|---|
| Gordon Canyon/Middle/3 Section / Prairie Point | 3/01-5/15 |
| Powerline | 5/16-8/15 |
| West Holding / Leggett / Quarry / West Holding | 8/16-10/31 |
| Gordon Canyon/Middle/3 Section / | 11/01-2/28 |
| West Holding | If needed for shipping |
| Pastures as needed – (Middle Pasture lower portion winter only) | Intermittent horse use for allotment management |
| Bull Basin | Rest |

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

In accordance with the Leggett Allotment Decision Notice dated July 7th 2010, and the Leggett Allotment Management Plan dated December 15th 2010, the allowable use level set for the Leggett Allotment will be conservative use (30-40%) including wildlife use, throughout all areas. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations. The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or on your own.

| Pasture | Monitoring date |
|--|-----------------|
| Gordon Canyon/Middle/3 Section/Prairie Point | Jun/2024 |
| Powerline, Bull Basin | Aug/2024 |
| Bull Basin/Prairie Point | Nov/2024 |
| Gordon Canyon/Middle/3 Section/Prairie Point | Dec/2024 |

4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:

Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2024 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

5. Salt and Supplement Policy:

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a. Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
- b. Locate supplements where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low.
- c. Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- d. Supplements should not be placed at any one location more than once during the grazing season to prevent the concentration of livestock.
- e. Limit supplement types to salt, protein and mineral blocks to reduce risk of spreading noxious weeds and to reduce the risk of creating areas of concentrated livestock use.
- f. If there is a need to use energy supplements such as grain, noxious weed free hay, surplus milk products, ethanol production by-products or molasses based products; a supplemental plan will need to be developed and approved by the District Ranger prior to placing these energy type supplements on National Forest lands.

6. Range Improvements:

All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the district in advance if you are proposing this type of work.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

Fences/Corrals:

1. Annual fence maintenance.
2. Rebuild holding 4 and 3 fences where needed, mainly fences 003221 and 003218
3. Evaluate ability to place cattleguards in 4040V road where 003221 and 003218 cross road 4040V.

Water:

4. Evaluate locations for water developments in Gordon Canyon, proposed dirt tanks/ erosion control in Sec. 32 and 05 T7S-R19W possibly 3 tanks
5. Evaluate for a rebuild of Rock Header 006497
6. Evaluate for cleaning and maintenance of Lower Plaza tanks 2 and 3
7. Evaluate for a trict tank in section 12 T8S-R20W
8. Gordon Tank #003265 needs cleaned.
9. R&W Tank #006427 needs cleaned.

7. Grazing Restriction:

The Leggett allotment includes a Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PAC). In this PAC the following activities are restricted during the breeding season (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting. Routine maintenance of range improvements is allowed.

- 8. The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the July 7th 2010 Leggett Allotment Decision Notice for the Leggett Allotment, the December 15th 2010 Leggett Allotment Management Plan and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Leggett Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.