

2000-2001
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
CHINA DAM 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.

I. MANAGEMENT TOOLS/RESOURCE OBJECTIVES for this GRAZING SEASON

- ** defer China Dam pasture from spring use, so as to give perennial forage a vigor boost
- ** provide water at Midway for longer use of Andres Mesa and Sand Trap pasture, thereby grazing less in the two pastures with traditionally more reliable water (China Dam and Grey Hills)

II. AUTHORIZATION In 2000 - 2001 you are authorized to graze: 11/10 - begin to truck in

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified to meet utilization)</u>
180 }	Andres Mesa Sand Trap China Dam Grey Hills gather into Robert E	— use this one as long as possible and return to Andres Mesa if we get moisture/pothole water.

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. You will be asked to provide the Forest Officer actual use records next fall. This is very important in evaluating effects of grazing on your allotment.
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 promptly.
6. Move your livestock regardless of the date shown in Section II to avoid exceeding utilization levels. To fail to do so is serious. 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.

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 are the lowlands of alluvial soils throughout the allotment, at least 1/3 mile from water.

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:* Dormant (no active growth) plant allowable utilization is 45%. The percentage is of the total weight of the year's current production. The utilization levels listed below are from the old Range Analysis Handbook, section 53.2 were intended for fair condition range during the growing season. They are the allowable use on this allotment if the plants are green and actively growing during the period of livestock use.

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

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

Mountain Mahogany 50% of available leaders browsed
Ceanothus 50% of available leaders browsed
Apache plume 50% of available leaders browsed

There are no allowable use standards for riparian on this allotment, as no riparian is grazed.

VI. MONITORING PLANNED

Permittee monitoring can help predict timely moves.

The Forest Service plans to check each pasture when the planned grazing period is approximately 3/4 over. The rangeland health checklist will be the guide for taking notes.

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. Let's review the salt map in this meeting. Provide a salt map to the Forest Officer after salt or supplement blocks are distributed, if it is different than the one on file. *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 the mineral supplement (granules in a feed trough) 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 here those range improvements planned for heavy maintenance prior to October 2002:

X. SHORT-AGE CALVES The following defines animals counted for billing:

- all animals six months of age or older at the time of entering the allotment,
- those animals that will become twelve months of age during the grazing period, and
- all weaned animals regardless of age. (reference FSM22.38.11a)

X. OUTFITTER-GUIDE Any guiding on National Forest, for which you or your representatives receive compensation, must be covered under an Outfitter-Guide Permit. The permit can be issued at the Chino Valley Ranger District.

XI. VANDALISM If your allotment improvements should suffer any damage, or anything be stolen contact the Chino Valley Ranger District immediately. We will contact the Sheriff's Department and conduct a joint investigation. This also pertains to cultural resources. If you notice unusual activity or a damaged Indian ruin, please call immediately. We are ordered by Congress and laws of the land to diligently protect cultural resources. You can assist us in meeting that responsibility by getting a good description of the individuals and/or vehicles plus license numbers. We encourage you not to contact suspected violators.

XII. PERMITTEE COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS

* Use Andre first with gates to Sand Trap shut until water at Midway forces him to open gates to Sand Trap.
* Sand Trap mgmnt: salt and protein block on west side points to discourage livestock use on immediate soft areas around Sand Trap Tank.

Move largest part of herd back to Andres if we get moisture for potholes.

Place salt and protein block on ridges/points in east side of Andres to make use of pothole water. When there's pothole water in Andres and Sand Trap, close gate to Midway

Scout out the feasibility of burying pipeline from Red Point to Midway
- location - elevations and history
- storage needs
- well capacity

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 Mark Johnson, District Ranger, PO Box 485, Chino Valley, Arizona, 86323 within 45 days of the date of decision.

APPROVED BY: Jaith Ryan 10/17/01
District Ranger Date

AGREED TO BY: [Signature] Signature Redacted for privacy reasons
Permittee Date 10/17/01

at earliest opportunity