



File Code: 2210

Date: January 23, 2003

Y-6-Ranch Inc.  
Sharon Kartchner

Dear Mrs. Kartchner,

This letter serves as your Grazing Year 2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions.

**Allotment:** Blue Creek/Dripping Springs Allotments  
**Permittee:** Y-6-Ranch Inc. (Sharon Kartchner)

**Permitted Numbers:**

**Blue Creek**            145 Cattle (cow/calf) 3/1-2/28  
**Dripping Springs**    24 Cattle (cow/calf) 3/1 - 4/30  
**Dripping Springs**    24 Cattle (cow/calf) 10/1 - 2/28

1. **Grazing System: Pasture rotation**

2. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2003:

Allotment	Number and class	Dates Authorized
Blue Creek	80 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/1/03 to 4/1/03
Blue Creek	145 Cattle (cow/calf)	4/2/03 to 2/28/04
Dripping Springs	24 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/1/03 to 4/30/03
Dripping Springs	24 Cattle (cow/calf)	10/1/03 to 2/28/04

3. **Management System:** Cattle are scheduled to graze the following in 2003:  
BLUE CREEK

Pasture	Time Frame*	Comments
North & South	3/1/03-4/1/03	(80 head)
North & South	4/1/03-5/15/03	(139 head)
South	5/16/03-9/15/03	North deferred these dates (96 head)
North & South	9/16/03-2/28/04	(139 head)
Bircher	3/1/03-2/28/04	(6 head year-round)

DRIPPING SPRINGS



Pasture	Time Frame*	Comments
Dripping Springs	10/1/03-4/30/04	
Dripping Springs	Deferment	

*\*Time frames are estimates, utilization standards being met should supersede dates when use standards are met for a given pasture.* Additionally, 145 number is contingent upon upcoming forage production.

#### 4. Special Instructions:

- a) Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat and archeological concerns before maintenance cleaning is authorized. We should plan ahead for these surveys.
- b) Ongoing grazing consultation is in progress this year for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog.
- c) Salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile or on any watering locations, unless authorized. Place blocks in lightly used areas until allowable forage use is achieved and then move them to the next least utilized area. Blocks should not be placed in meadow bottoms or near roads. Do not place block in the same area used in previous years and finally, put them on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.
- d) Any changes or modifications made in this Annual Operating Plan/Instructions will be made in cooperation with the District Range Staff and approved prior to the change by the District Ranger. The permittee will give the District at least Five-day notice of an anticipated change.

#### 5. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

Allowable use is the percentage of use that will be allowed on key grass and browse species. This use will be measured in the key monitoring areas shown below for the Blue Creek/Dripping Springs Allotments. Adherence to utilization levels *is mandatory and should be the limiting factor* in adjusting grazing management. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are met. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when these forage utilization standards are met. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

The maximum allowable use levels set for the Blue Creek/Dripping Springs Allotments will be **35%** (2.5 inch average stubble height on Blue grama grass) during the growing season from May 1 through Sept 30. The maximum allowable use levels during the dormant season from October 1 through April 30 will be **40%** (2 inch average stubble height on Blue grama grass). Use of browse is not to exceed the **50%** level. Use levels will be monitored in the following areas:

##### **Key Monitoring Areas: Dripping Springs Allotment**

Area	Important Plant Species	Comments/Descriptions
Cluster 1 Transect area	Sideoats & Blue grama	SE ¼ , NE 1/4, Section 26
Dripping Springs Tank area	Sideoats & Blue grama	
Sawmill Canyon	Mahogany, Buck Brush	

**Key Monitoring Areas: Blue Creek Allotment**

Area	Important Plant Species	Comments/Descriptions
Cluster 1 Transects	Sideoats & Hairy grama	South pasture (OLD Tank area)
Cluster 2 Transects	Sideoats & Hairy grama	North Pasture (Section 21)
Cluster 3 Transects	Sideoats & Hairy grama	South Pasture (SW Blue Creek Trough)
Pace Transects 1,2 & 4	Sideoats & Hairy grama	South Pasture

**6. Range Improvements:**

**a) Fences:** Proper maintenance of fences will help ensure they will hold livestock in a pasture and will extend their useful life. Fences in need of reconstruction will be inventoried and prioritized by the District for reconstruction. Please let us know if any other fences than the above described are beyond reasonable repair and are in need of reconstruction.

Fence #A539 (Permit Modification 1-01) is ½ mile of fence that will be rebuilt this year. Materials were picked up on December 2, 2002.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
1-01	Fence #501 (1/2 mi.)	6/1/03	extended

7.

**The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment and/or on-going grazing consultation for the Blue Creek and Dripping Springs Allotments. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet

with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Sincerely,

LARY D. RALEY  
District Ranger

Signed by Sharon S. Kartchner on 2/20/03  
Permittee

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Date

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

- (a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.
- (b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:
  - (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;
  - (2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;
  - (3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;
  - (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
  - (5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;
  - (6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.
  - (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and
  - (8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.
- (c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

