

WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT
GILA NATIONAL FOREST

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2004

Headwaters Ranch Partnership

MIMBRES/POWDERHORN/SAPILLO ALLOTMENT

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

PERMITTED USE:

| ALLOTMENT | PERMITTED NUMBER | PERMITTED SEASON |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mimbres/Powderhorn/Sapillo | 230 Cattle | 03/01-02/28 |
| | 10 Horses | 03/01-02/28 |
| | | |

AUTHORIZED USE:

| ALLOTMENT | AUTHORIZED NUMBER | PASTURE | ON/OFF DATE | PASTURE INSTRUCTIONS |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|---|
| Mimbres/Powderhorn/Sapillo | 210 Cattle | North Star & Divide | 03/01-09/15 | |
| | 230 Cattle | Skates/Steer | 09/15-11/14/04 | |
| | 230 Cattle | S. Skates | Rest | |
| | 210 Cows | Upper Dutchman | 11/15 – 01/14/05 | |
| | 210 cows | Kelly | 01/15 – 05/01/05 | You are allowed 10 days prior to and 10 days after the off date to remove cattle from the Kelly pasture. This will allow you a total of 20 days to clean the pasture out. |
| | 20 Bulls | Steer | 11/15 – 05/25 | |
| | 20 Bulls | Biddle | 05/26-09/25 | |
| | 210 Cows | Elk | 05/01-09/30 | |
| | 20 Bulls | Elk | 09/30 – 11/30 | |
| | 230 Cattle | S. Skates | Rest | |
| | 230 Cattle | Skates/Steer | 10/01 – 11/30 | |
| | 210 Cattle | Kelly | 12/01 – 03/30 | |

Our objectives for the 2004-grazing season are to rest the Powderhorn and South Skates pastures. Pasture fences must be inspected and maintained prior to placing cattle in the next scheduled pasture.

MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

The above schedule for stocking the allotments depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility is allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range condition. **If there is a need to deviate from the above schedule by more than 10 days, you need to immediately notify the District Ranger of the proposed change.** The District Ranger must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest if the placing on, or removal of livestock is not planned in the above schedule.

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water 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. Failure to maintain control of your livestock could lead to adverse

action against your Term Grazing Permit. **You may begin to move cattle or open pasture gates to allow cattle to move from one pasture to another (5) days prior to the scheduled rotation date, unless otherwise specified. The pasture the cattle are leaving should be “cleaned out” within (5) days after the scheduled date for moving. This will allow you 10 days to move cattle from one pasture to the next.**

SALTING

Placement of salt will be used as a management tool to obtain even distribution of livestock and utilization of forage. Salt will be placed on areas of good forage production and light utilization. There will be no permanent salt grounds. Once the salt at a given salt ground has been used, the salt ground will be moved. Occasionally, cattle may have to be driven to new salt grounds to show them where it is. In this manner, it will be possible to draw the cattle into areas needing utilization. **At no time will salt supplement be placed in areas of natural livestock concentration, closer than ¼-mile to either permanent or semi-permanent stock watering locations, within drainage bottoms, or within visible distance to roads unless authorized by the District Ranger.**

COUNTS

The permittee will notify the District Ranger or Range Staff at least 5 days in advance of the date permitted livestock are either brought on or taken off the allotment.

UTILIZATION GUIDELINES

Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition that assures satisfactory watershed conditions. To maintain satisfactory watershed conditions, we have established a maximum allowable use of 35% in key areas. Key areas are as follows:

| KEY AREA | UTILIZATION GUIDELINE | KEY SPECIES |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| McKnight Canyon | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Mimbres Canyon | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Powderhorn Canyon | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Flat N & S of HWY 35 in Skates | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Rocky Canyon | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Divide Pasture | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Heifer Pasture | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Mesa Tops along N.Star Road | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Biddle Pasture | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Dutchman & Little McKnight Canyons | 35 % | Blue Grama |
| Elk Pasture | 35 % | Blue Grama |

CULTURAL RESOURCES/VANDALISM OF IMPROVEMENTS

We are required by congress and the State of New Mexico to diligently protect cultural resources. If you notice activity or a damaged Indian ruin please call immediately. This also pertains to damage to range improvement and stolen property. We will then contact the Sheriffs Department and conduct a joint investigation. You can assist us by getting a good description of

the individuals and /or vehicles plus license numbers. We discourage you from contacting the suspected violators.

Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples include cleaning stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.

REVISIONS

The Annual Operating and General Instructions can be revised and amended as necessary to provide better management on the allotment as the situation dictates. Any revisions will be mutually approved by the Wilderness District Ranger. The AOI and General Instructions are hereby made part of section 8 (a) of the term grazing permit.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit should be maintained in a good functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to good functioning condition, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

The permittee is responsible for maintenance on all assigned range improvements, as shown on the grazing permit (form 2200-5) and colored on the permit map. Particular attention should be given to fence maintenance. Maintenance will consist primarily of keeping fences tight, replacing staples as necessary and servicing gates to see that they can be opened and closed easily.

Improvements that we have agreed to pursue funding for or that you are going to maintain in 2004 include:

| IMPROVEMENT NAME | IMPROVEMENT NUMBER | ACTIVITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Divide Well | 5123 | Acquire Electrical Service | SIKES/FS |
| Corner Spring | 5121 | Replace drinking trough | FS provide trough Permittee install |

Non-compliance with the instructions set forth in this authorization could lead to adverse actions taken against your Term Grazing Permit.