

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
11/07/02

Allotment Name: Agua Fria

Permittee: Williams Ranch, Jim Williams

Permit Number: 06-996

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 230 cattle 1/1 to 2/28
230 cattle 3/1 to 4/1
230 cattle 6/16 to 12/31

2003 Annual Validation: 150 cattle 6/1/03 to 10/01/03
200 cattle 11/01/03 to 02/28/04

Grazing System:

The current grazing system for this allotment is a modified 3 pasture deferred rotation system. The allotment is incorporated into the rotation system with the adjacent private lands and is combined as a whole ranch unit. Pastures are receiving short use periods with longer periods of recovery time during the growing season. The system was developed by Jim Williams (Permittee), Kirk Gadzia (Quivira Coalition) and John Pierson (Range Staff) and has been functioning in this manner for 4 years.

Pasture Rotation: 2002

East Pasture	1/01/03 to 1/31/03	150 cows	Allowable use 40%
Other Lands	3/1/03 to 6/30/03		
East Pasture	7/01/03 to 8/31/03	150 cows	Allowable use 40%
West Pasture	9/01/03 to 10/31/03	150 cows	Allowable use 40%
Middle Pasture	11/01/03 to 12/31/03	200 cows	Allowable use 40%
Other Lands	1/1/04 to 4/30/04		

Grazing Restriction:

No restrictions apply to this grazing allotment.

Allowable Use: The allowable use guidelines identified in the 1995 environmental assessment and decision notice are incorporated in this annual operating plan.

Standard - Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition, which will promote satisfactory range vegetation condition.

Guideline - Allowable use is 40% on grasses. No more than 25% of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings heavily hedged [This allowable use for riparian plants is from the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook dated 4/88].

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, those key areas will be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. These areas are the existing cluster

transects sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period to determine actual grazing use. I encourage you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization on the uplands or 25% of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings in Largo Creek are heavily hedged, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

All three pastures were monitored in 2002. Utilization was recorded by averaging use in each pasture. The average use recorded follows: Middle pasture 25%, East pasture 5-30% and West pasture 10%. Jim, the District appreciates your proactive management on the allotment and cooperation in complying with allowable use guidelines.

Actual use:

Actual use for the 2002 grazing season was 849 AM's. Your 10 year average is 1322 AM's. I appreciate your effort and hard decisions made in taking care of the country through the mitigation of livestock numbers during the 2002 drought conditions this past grazing season.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2003, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range developments:

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

Other Information:

1. John discussed accomplishing pinon/juniper thinning on the allotment by Largo Creek. The contract has been awarded and work will be started in June/July 2003.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE STEVENSON
District Ranger

1/23/03
Date