

**Quemado Ranger District**  
**2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions**  
(1/23/03)

**Allotment Name:** East Demetrio  
**Permittee:** Chavez Brothers  
**Permit Number:** 06-914  
**Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:** 80 cattle cow/calf 3/1 – 2/28  
**2003 Annual Validation:** 44 cattle cow/calf 3/1 – 2/28/04

**Grazing System:**

A three pasture modified deferred grazing rotation system is utilized for the allotment. In addition two small pastures Davis Meadow and Swenson Place are utilized for holding pastures.

The Harris Pasture is used from July 1 until December 31, while the Chavez Mesa and Largo Pastures are used interchangeably during alternate years.

**Pasture Rotation: 2003**

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Period of Use</b>	<b>Livestock #'s</b>	<b>Allowable Use by Species</b>
Largo Pasture	1/01/03 - 6/30/03	44 head	Blue Grama 40%
Harris Pasture (East)	7/01/03 - 10/15/03	44 head	Blue Grama 35%
Harris Pasture (West)	10/16/03 -12/31/03	44 head	Blue Grama 40%

Livestock will be allowed in the Davis Trap throughout the time they are in the Harris Pasture.

**Grazing Restriction:** The following grazing restriction will apply as it did in 2002. Please refer to the attached map.

No salt, mineral or supplement feed may be placed within mixed conifer (ie. Douglas fir, oak woodlands) in the southeast portion of the Harris Pasture above Willow springs from February 1 to August 31 and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed.

The purpose of these restrictions is to mitigate wildlife issues.

**Allowable Use:**

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

In accordance with the East Demetrio Decision dated 12/13/99 the guidelines for forage utilization in key areas is 35% allowable use during growing season and 40% allowable use during dormant season. Within riparian areas that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area heavily hedged.

**Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:**

Key forage utilization monitoring will continue on areas identified on the attached map. Forest Service personnel will visit the key monitoring areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a certain pasture. The percentage of grazing utilization will be determined at that time. Participation by the permittee is always welcome and appreciated. Monitoring methods to be utilized will be based on Grazing Intensity Guidelines, ocular estimates, clipping and weighing.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another areas of the grazed pasture where actual grazing use is less than the allowable utilization. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at the allowable utilization, livestock will be moved early into the next scheduled pasture identified on this annual operating plan. This requirement is necessary to prevent over utilization on forage plants.

Key riparian areas on the allotment are on Harris Creek, located in the Harris Creek Pasture.

**Utilization Monitoring Results:**

P-3	Harris	8% use
C-9	Harris	24% use
P-4	Harris	18% use
P-1	Harris	40% use
C-5	Largo	35% use
P-1	Largo	18% use
C-25	Largo	42% use
C-2	Largo	49% use

C-2 and C-25, in the Largo Pasture, exceeded the allowable use during 2002 grazing season. It is the responsibility of the livestock grazing permittee to comply with the established Allowable Use guidelines. In order to comply, grazing utilization must not exceed the allowable use of 35% during the growing season or 40% during the dormant season.

**Actual Use:**

Your actual use for 2002 was 436 AM's. The ten year average for the allotment in 857 AM's.

**Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

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

**Range developments:**

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

1. The gate to the Section 12 Pit between East Demetrio and El Caso Allotments will be replaced with a cattlegaurd this year. FS will install the cattlegaurd.

In addition, the following new improvements were discussed:

1. Willow springs pipeline extension. This project consists of extending a pipeline from the existing trough at Willow springs north towards the Swenson place. This project was discussed in 2002 and determined to be a viable project, however the District does not have the available funding to complete necessary NEPA documentation or implementation at this time. The project will remain on the District's program of work and be prioritized for review and funding opportunities in the future.
2. Long low dams needed south of Forest Road 80B, west of new well towards West Demetrio Creek gate. The dams are needed to mitigate water pooling in the low spots and prevent traffic from getting off of the road and creating a new road.

This project will be submitted to the Forest Road Maintenance crew. The implementation of this project will depend on the status of other priority work and existing maintenance schedule to be completed by the Forest Road Maintenance crew.

**Other Information:**

The clusters and paced transects will be read during late summer this year. John will contact you in advance prior to reading transects. I would appreciate and encourage your participation in re-reading of the range clusters and paced transects.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these annual operating instructions, please do not hesitate to contact John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson  
JANICE S. STEVENSON  
District Ranger

3/18/03  
Date