

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(6/11/2003)

Allotment Name: El Caso

Permittee: Buzz and Beverly Easterling

Permit Number: 06-582

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 393 cattle cow/calf 3/1 - 2/28

2003 Annual Validation: 60 cattle 7/1/2003 – 11/1/2003

Grazing System:
Modified deferred/rest rotation

Pasture Rotation: 2003			Allowable Use
Calico	60 head	7/1/03 to 8/31/03	40%
Castle Rock 2	60 head	9/1/03 to 11/1/03	40%
Baca	To be used <u>if necessary</u> .		

Grazing Restriction:

No grazing restrictions apply to the pastures being grazed this year.

Under no circumstances are cattle allowed in the Quemado Lake Campgrounds and spill way area. This recreation area is fenced to exclude cattle from campgrounds where forest visitors are camping and fishing. If cattle are observed within campgrounds in the recreation area, you will be notified to promptly remove cattle.

No livestock grazing within the Largo Creek Riparian pastures will be authorized this grazing season.

Allowable Use:

The 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the maximum allowable utilization by grazing animals.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

Key forage utilization monitoring will be conducted on areas identified in 1998. A map of the key areas was provided to you at the validation meeting 6/11/2003. 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/paced transect 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. Methods

to be used are grazed plant method, ocular estimates, clipping/weighing and/or Grazing Intensity Guidelines

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another area of the 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.

2002 Utilization Monitoring Results:

Utilization checks were conducted at the following key areas in 2002:

Baca	U-7	1% use	W. Armijo	C-5	21% use
				C-1	45% use
El Caso	C-1	43% use		C-6	33% use
	C-3	41% use		P-2	58% use
	C-4	5% use		P-3	23% use
	P-6	0% use		P-4	45% use
	U-8	34% use			
W. Porcupine	C-1	6% use	Sawmill	P-5	0% use
	C-2	5% use	 Holding 4		56% use
	C-3	3% use			
	P-3	0% use			
	P-6	5% use			

Holding 4 pasture, C-1 and C-3 in El Caso pasture, and P-4, P-2, and C-1 in W. Armijo pasture received heavy use last year. Please closely monitor all key areas and distribute livestock to ensure that allowable use rates are not exceeded. Holding 4, El Caso, and West Armijo pastures will not be grazed this grazing season.

Actual Use:

The actual use for the 2002 grazing season was 1584 AM's. For your reference, the 10 - year actual use average on this allotment has been 1105 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 developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status. In addition, we discussed the following specific improvement maintenance.

1. The permittee will maintain the Largo Well Pipeline in the Calico pasture to a functional status. In addition the permittee will coordinate with the East Demetrio permittee and the electric company to access and pay for electricity used at Largo Well

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

Margaret Kirkeminde for
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

6/13/2003
Date