

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(4/15/03)

Allotment Name: Gallo Mountain

Permittee: Skousen Ranch

Permit Number: 06-1145

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 433 Cattle; Yearlings; 5/15 – 10/15
Private Land Permit: 17 Cattle; Yearlings; 5/15 - 10/15

2003 Annual Validation: 433 Cattle; Yearlings; Term;
5/15/03 – 10/15/03
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Grazing System:

A five pasture modified deferred-rotation system is utilized for the allotment. The summer use period occurs from May 15 thru October 15 annually. Each pasture receives use consistent with capacity and allowable use guidelines of 35% upland and 25% riparian on key areas. Livestock movement between pastures are permitted to begin one week prior to scheduled moving dates and extend one week after scheduled moving dates unless utilization rates are met earlier than expected or forage is available to keep livestock within the pasture after the move out date.

Pasture Rotation: 2003

Upper Mallet	50 head	5/21 – 6/30	35% Allowable Use
Lower Mallet	50 head	7/1 - 8/1	35% Allowable Use
Lower Negrito	150 head	5/15 - 7/31	35% Allowable Use
Upper Negrito	250 head	8/1 - 10/31	35% Allowable Use
100 head shipped in and 150 head from Lower Negrito.			
Headwater	200 head	5/15 - 10/31	35% Allowable Use
150 head shipped in and 50 head from Lower Mallet.			

Please give 48 hours advance notice to John Pierson or Joe Giron **prior to livestock entry** on the allotment in order to count livestock.

Should there be a lack of moisture during the summer months and grazing reaches the allowable use, the livestock will be moved on to the Bullcamp Pasture to complete the grazing season.

If a pasture rotation change is necessary, permittee must inform District Range Staff in advance.

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did during 2002. Please refer to the attached map.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in these designated (crosshatched) areas from February 1 to August 31, 2002 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 this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is necessary 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 Gallo Mountain Decision dated 12/13/99 the guidelines for forage utilization in key areas is 35% allowable use during the growing 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 in the attached map. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, key areas will be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. These areas are the existing cluster/pace 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, 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 in this annual operating plan. This requirement is necessary to prevent over-utilization of forage plants.

Key riparian areas on the allotment are Perry Lawson Canyon and Gallo Canyon.

Actual Use:

450 cattle from 5/1/01 thru 10/15/01. 5.5 months times 450 head = 2475 Animal Months.
 Animal Months (2475) times .7 (factor for yearlings) = 1733 Animal Unit Months.

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.

Utilization Monitoring Results during 2002:

The allowable use for all pastures on the Gallo Mtn. Allotment is 35%.

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Transect</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>% Use</u>
Bull Camp	C-1	8/15/02	14%
Bull Camp	C-2	8/05/02	10%
Bull Camp	C-4	8/05/02	14%
Bull Camp	P-1	8/05/02	3%
Bull Camp	P-6	8/06/02	8%
Bull Camp	P-7	8/05/02	12%
Bull Camp	P-8	8/05/02	5%

Range Developments:

All assigned range improvements identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status. **The maintenance of range improvements (fences, etc.) must be completed prior to stocking the scheduled pastures.**

Other Information:

As agreed to in your meeting with Joe Giron, the following improvements are planned for reconstruction:

- 1) 2002 – Fence #4182 to be reconstructed from Teddy Tank (Negrito Tank) gate towards the southwest to the first corner, during June. A permit modification will be developed for the reconstruction of this improvement.
- 2) Reconstruct fence #4008. A permit modification will be developed for the reconstruction of this improvement.
- 3) Permittee proposed that he be allowed to construct approximately ¼ mile of fence from the northeast corner of the private land at Gallo Lake to fence #4060, that runs east and west, and include that portion as part of the holding pasture. The fence corner would be located just east of the present gate on fence #4060. Forest Service needs to look at this project “on the ground”.
- 4) Replace steel gate with a cattleguard where fence #4060 intersects with Apache Mtn. Road #870. F.S. will install cattleguard.

- 5) Permittee would like to make an extension of Gallito holding pasture fence along FR 93 to cattleguard in T.3S.; R.17W.; NW1/4 of Sec.24 and SW1/4 of Sec.13. F.S. needs to review this project on the ground, then complete NEPA.

If you have any questions or comments please call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so