

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/4/02)

Allotment Name: East Sand Flat

Permittee: Steve and Linda Hatfield

Permit Number: 06-1138

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 300 Cow/calf 03/01 – 02/28

2003 Annual Validation:

150 Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
8 Bulls	03/01 – 02/28
51 replc. heifers	10/01 – 02/28
91 head non-use	03/01 – 02/28

Grazing System: Deferred Rotation. This allotment all lies on a south-facing slope, with the exception of two of the pastures - Twin Springs and Campground. These are the summer pastures and are located on top of Slaughter Mesa. The livestock are wintered in the southernmost part of the allotment.

Pasture Rotation: 2002

Winter	01/01/03 to 06/01/03	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Twin Spring	06/02/03 to 07/15/03	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Campground	07/16/03 to 08/31/03	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Lost Cabin	09/01/03 to 10/31/03	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Winter	10/31/03 to 05/15/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 40%

If possible, cows may be moved from Winter to Twin Spring as early as 5/1/03.

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did in 2002 in portions of the Lost Cabin Pasture. A copy of map of restricted areas has been included.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31, 2003 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 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. Key forage species, proper use, and allowable use for the allotment is 30% during the growing season and 40% during the dormant season.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. 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 transect sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period. 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. Monitoring to be utilized will be ocular estimates, grazed plant method, clip/weigh 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 use is less than the allowable utilization. If all remaining key areas in the 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.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

PAC	9006	0%	Lost Cabin P-5, C-1, C-2	0-5%
PAC	9001	0%	Twin Springs C-3, P-1	10-20%
Winter	C-6	0 – 5%	Campground P-2, P6	5%
Winter	C-3	0 – 5%	Campground C-1	10%

Steve and Linda, the District appreciates your efforts in managing your livestock operation to comply with allowable utilization rates on the allotment.

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 improvement maintenance discussed included:

- 1) Continue on water development.
 - a) Look into redevelopment of Cooper’s Seep.
 - b) Look into redevelopment of Lost Cabin Well.

New improvements discussed included:

- 1) Trick tanks around Lake Pit Tank and north of Largo.
- 2) Building and installing new cattle guards at:
 - a) Hellhole gate
 - b) 3 corners gate on fence 4152
 - c) North side of Triangle water trap fence 4359
 - d) By Lake Pit Tank in allotment boundary fence 4284.
- 3) Replace fence in selected areas, with possibility of moving allotment boundary fence T. 4S R. 16W Sec. 20.
- 4) Paint trick tank grid and storage tank.

This AOP/I authorizes you to perform the installation of the above cattle guards.

Actual Use:

The actual use data you provided the District was calculated at 2401 AM's for the 2002 grazing season. For your reference the 10-year actual use average for this allotment has been 2897 AM's.

Other Information:

1. Production/Utilization study in Winter Pasture was initiated in Fall of 2002, will continue in 2003. Production average was calculated at 333 lb/acre dry weight in 2002.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE STEVENSON
District Ranger

1/23/03
Date