



File Code: 2210

Date: February 21, 2003

Faust Cattle Company

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Faust,

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Plan/Instructions for the 2003 grazing year.

1. Authorization

Allotment	Number and class of livestock	Dates Authorized
Harve Gulch	60 Cattle	3/1/03 –2/28/04

The District has initiated consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a new proposed action to graze up to 79 head yearlong for the next 10 years. Within this process we will be adjoining the Hospital Pasture, from the Mogollon Allotment, to the Harve Gulch Allotment.

The proposed grazing action is to graze 60 cattle yearlong on the Harve Gulch Allotment during the 2003 grazing year and graze up to 79 cattle yearlong in the following years until such time the term grazing permit expires 1/6/2007. In addition the district is adding an extra pasture (Hospital Pasture) to the management of the Harve Gulch Allotment.

The grazing of 60 had are conservative numbers to allow the operator to continue bringing existing range improvements to standard that will support up to 79 head within a 4-pasture rotation system with emphasis around a deferred grazing system.

If management maintains minimum allowable stubble height requirements on key areas throughout the allotment during the 2003 grazing year with 60 head and the permittee completes the maintenance of the Harve Gulch Pipeline, Rim, and Trough which are improvements necessary to support and distribute 79 head, the permittee will then be authorized to graze 79 head during the 2004 and following grazing years.

Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when minimum stubble height requirements are met. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

If at such time minimum stubble height requirements have been met, and livestock are required to be removed from the allotment, the following grazing year the permittee will be required to reduce his herd in increments of 20 head/grazing year.

Minimum stubble height requirements at “key area” locations on “key species” developed per site will



reveal the success of the management system and in validating allotment capacity. Monitoring has been designed to measure minimum stubble height requirements before entry during the growing season and upon exiting a pasture. This monitoring data will then be evaluated in reference to meeting overall pasture as well as allotment objectives. A monitoring goal is to establish the carrying capacity of the allotment in a three-year period on the Harve Gulch Allotment in which 1 year has been completed.

The previous proposed grazing action was to graze 40 cattle yearlong on the Harve Gulch Allotment. These numbers were conservative to allow the operation to bring existing range improvements to standard that will support a 4-pasture rotation system with emphasis around a deferred grazing system. Minimum stubble height requirements were set, monitored and maintained at or above the desired levels at “key area” locations on “key species” (Blue Grama) developed per site and have revealed the success of the 2002 grazing management system. Monitoring was designed to measure minimum allowable stubble heights before entry during the growing season and upon exiting a pasture. This monitoring data will continue to be evaluated in reference to meeting overall pasture as well as allotment objectives. A monitoring goal is to establish the carrying capacity of the allotment by 2005 on the Harve Gulch Allotment.

2. Pasture Management:

Pasture	Time Frame	Comments
Hospital and Bursum Pastures	3/1/03-3/31/03	Time in pasture dependent upon meeting minimum stubble height requirements at key areas. Distributed as evenly as possible.
East Harve Gulch	4/1/03- 5/14/03	Livestock will be sorted and branded during this time period. This pasture will receive complete growing season rest.
West Harve Gulch	5/15/03-7/15/03	Time in pasture dependent upon meeting minimum stubble height requirements at key areas. Seedhead production is an objective.
Whitewater	7/16/03-10/15/03	Time in pasture dependent upon meeting minimum stubble height requirements at key areas. Seedhead production is an objective.
West Harve Gulch	10/16/03-10/31/03	Ship out Livestock
Carcass Basin	11/1/03-1/31/03	Dormant season use
Hospital and Bursum Pastures	2/1/04-2/28/04	Time in pasture dependent upon meeting minimum stubble height requirements at key areas. Distributed as evenly as possible.

Pasture moves will depend upon precipitation amounts, water availability and adequate forage.

3. Minimum Stubble Height Requirements and Monitoring:

Minimum stubble height requirements are based upon the concept that specific plants in specific areas

can tolerate a given amount of herbage removal. To meet the ecological objectives of the allotment, grazing pressure should be removed when minimal stubble-height requirements are reached (Krueger1998). Stubble height will be measured in the key monitoring areas shown below for the Harve Gulch Allotment. The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Section I of these Annual Operating Plan/Instructions. Adherence to minimum stubble height requirements *is mandatory and should be the limiting factor* in adjusting grazing management. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if minimum stubble height requirements are met. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when minimum stubble height requirements are met. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

The minimum stubble height requirements set for the Harve Gulch Allotment will be **2.5 inches on Blue grama** grasses within fair condition range during the growing season (May 1 through Sept 30) and **2.0 inches on Blue grama** grasses within fair condition range during the dormant season (October 1 through April 30) and **2.5 inches on Blue grama** grasses within poor condition range during the grazing year. Holechek and Galt’s Grazing Intensity Guidelines can be used to draw correlations between qualitative utilization categories, forage use by weight and average stubble height measurements (Holechek and Galt 2000). A minimum stubble height of 2.5 inches on Blue grama correlates to 0 – 30% utilization. The minimum stubble heights will be monitored in the following key monitoring areas:

Key Monitoring Areas

LOCATION	ALLOW_USE		KEY_SPP
	ALLOW_USE (Dormant)	(Growing)	
whitewater 2	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
whitewater 1	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
whg 2	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
whg 1	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 7	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 6	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 5	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 4	0-30% 2.0+ stub	0-30% 2.0+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 3	0-30% 2.5 + stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 2	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
ehg pasture 1	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
Carcass 2	0-30% 2.0+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
Carcass 1	0-30% 2.0+ stub	0-30 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama
Bursum 1	0-30% 2.5+ stub	0-30% 2.5+ stub	Blue Grama

Fifty percent allowable use is the percentage of use that will be allowed on key browse species through out the allotment.

4. Special instructions:

- a) Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat and archeological concerns

before maintenance cleaning is authorized. We should plan ahead for these surveys.

- b) Livestock are not authorized to be grazed on National Forest land on the San Francisco River.
- c) Crossing of the river with livestock will be minimized during the year, and will be avoided during the period of March 1 – May 31. Emergency livestock crossings during the defined period will be coordinated beforehand through the District Wildlife Biologist.
- d) Before livestock are allowed to graze the West Harve Gulch Pasture the Harve Gulch Pipeline, Rim, and Trough must be maintained in working condition by 5/1/2003. If there needs to be any ground disturbing activities for the maintenance of these improvements you are to contact district personnel and have written authorization to proceed with these activities.
- e) Within the East Harve Gulch Pasture livestock will be discouraged from using the area of erosive soils with gullies near the Sandy Wash area (South West portion of the pasture) by herding and salting.

5. Range Improvements:

- a) **Fences:** The District will be conducting cultural and biological clearances for the construction of one wire fence corral within the Carcass Basin Pasture and 50 ft of lane fence for the use of mineral creek corral on the mogollon Allotment. Once the decision has been signed for the construction of these improvements you will be authorized to build them.
- b) **Waters:** You are authorized to finish cleaning the Frisco Tank. In order to complete the necessary construction of the Harve Gulch Tank the District will need to complete cultural and biological clearances. Once the decision has been signed for the further construction of the Harve Gulch Tank you will be authorized to complete the project.
The district will not have the funds for the re-construction of the twin tanks spillways this year.

The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment and/or on-going grazing consultation for the Alma Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file

an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Sincerely,

LARRY D. RALEY
District Ranger

Permittee

Date

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

- (a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.
- (b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:
 - (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;
 - (2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;
 - (3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;
 - (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
 - (5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;
 - (6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.
 - (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and
 - (8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.
- (c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

