

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(2/19/03)

Allotment Name: East Demetrio
Permittee: Chavez Brothers
Permit Number: 06-914
Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 80 cattle cow/calf 3/1 – 2/28
2004 Annual Validation: 49 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 used for holding pastures.

The Harris Pasture is used from July 1 until December 31, while the Chavez Mesa and Largo Pastures are used interchangeably from Jan.1 thru June 30.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Pasture	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	Allowable Use
Chavez Mesa	1/01/04 - 4/15/04	49 head	40%
	4/16/04 - 6/30/04	49 head	35%
Harris Pasture (West)	7/01/04 - 10/15/04	49 head	35%
Harris Pasture (East)	10/16/04 -12/31/04	49 head	40%
Chavez Mesa	1/01/05 – 4/15/05	49 head	40%

Grazing Restriction: The following grazing restriction will apply as it did in 2003. Please refer to the map that was mailed recently.

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 permit 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:

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Monitoring Point</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>% Use</u>
West Harris	P-1	3/26/03	43
East Harris	C-9	3/26/03	21
East Harris	P-3	4/01/03	12
West Harris	P-4	4/01/03	14
Largo	P-1	7/08/03	24
Largo	C-2	7/08/03	29
Largo	C-5	7/08/03	33
Largo	C-25	7/08/26	26
East Harris	P-3	10/09/03	19

P-1 in the West Harris Pasture exceeded the allowable use by 3%. Otherwise the use was well below the allowable use at all points monitored. Thank you for your cooperation in complying with the allowable use guidelines.

Actual Use:

Your actual use for 2003 was 429 AM's. The ten year average for the allotment in 906 AM's.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2004 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 cattleguard to the Section 12 Pit between East Demetrio and El Caso Allotments was installed during 2003. Wings are now needed

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.

Other Information:

The clusters and paced transects will be read by Joe Giron during late summer of 2004. Joe Giron will contact you 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/ John Pierson for
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

cc: so