



## Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

**Allotment:** Negrito and Yeguas  
**Permittee:** Canadian River Cattle Company  
**Permit Number:** 61288 in transition

**Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2006:

Authorized	From	To	Allotment
360* cow/calf	3/1	2/28	Negrito/Yeguas
10 horse	3/1	2/28	Negrito/Yeguas

\* In light of the ongoing drought, prior to the scheduled date of rotation onto the Negrito allotment (6/16/06), field inspections will be conducted to determine whether 2006 authorized livestock numbers should be reduced.

### 1. Management:

Negrito/Yeguas 2006 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Perry Mesa, Telephone, and Middle Pastures	3/1-5/15 (all cattle)
Rainy Holding Pasture and Airstrip	5/16-6/15 (all cattle)
Chimney, and Sign Camp Pastures	6/16-11/1 (heifers)
Burro Pasture	6/16-7/15 (cows and bulls)
Olla Pasture	7/16-8/15 (cows and bulls)
Bull Basin Pasture	8/16-9/30 (cows and bulls)
Rainy Pasture	10/1-10/31 (cows and bulls)
Airstrip Pasture and Rainy Holding	11/1-11/30 (all cattle)
Perry Mesa, Telephone, and Middle Pastures	12/1-2/28 (all cattle)



Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

**2. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

The maximum allowable use levels set for the Negrito/Yeguas Allotment will be **35%**; in addition stubble heights should not be less than an average 2.5 inches on blue and hairy grama. Stubble heights should not be less than 5 inches on sideoats grama, and no less than 5 inches on mountain muhly. Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. If utilization / seasonal utilization levels are approaching allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be removed to areas within the pasture that are not approaching allowable use levels and/or management changes will be made to the rotation schedule the following year. In the event that areas not approaching allowable use levels are not available, livestock will be removed from the allotment. In the event of over utilization, changes will be made to the following year's AOI to prevent recurring instances of over utilization.

As per consultation for on-going grazing with the US Fish and Wildlife Service all livestock will be excluded from the Mainstem Negrito Creek and South Fork Negrito Creek within the Negrito/Yeguas Allotments by herding and only incidental use will be tolerated. Livestock will also be excluded from perennial reaches within North Fork Negrito Creek by herding, and only incidental use will be tolerated. Please use salt/supplement, herding and any other means to ensure that livestock are excluded from these riparian areas. If a measurable use of 10 % by livestock is observed the livestock must be removed from the pastures that contain North Fork, South Fork, or Mainstem Negrito Creek.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged to participate in monitoring with district personnel and/or on your own.

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Monitoring date</b>
South Fork Negrito Creek	04/04/06
Perry Mesa	04/18/06
Telephone/Middle	04/19/06
Mainstem Negrito Creek	05/02/06
Rainy Holding/Airstrip	06/29/06
Mainstem Negrito Creek	07/13/06
Olla	08/16/06
Bull Basin	09/13/06
Chimney/Sign Camp	09/14/06
Rainy/Rainy Holding/Airstrip	11/14/06
South Fork Negrito Creek	11/30/06

**3. Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2006, total or partial livestock removal from the allotments may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

**4. Grazing Restriction:**

The Negrito/Yeguas allotments include Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (PAC). In these PAC's the following activities are restricted during the breeding season of the Owl (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting; routine maintenance is allowed.

**5. Range Improvements:**

All assigned range developments identified in the Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

In addition, specific maintenance includes:

**Fences:** Canadian River Cattle Company proposes to reconstruct approx 3.5 miles of the Negrito/Deadman fence #6293. Please contact Collin or Jerry at this office for materials and permit modification prior to implementation of this project or if the need arises to reconstruct any other fences

**Water:** Canadian River Cattle Company proposes to conduct maintenance on Oak Spring #3124, Old Cabin Spring #3122, High Spring #3257, developed springs. If any of these spring developments include earthen pools of water, please contact the district for frog surveys prior to implementation of these projects.

Advance planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months. Please contact the district if you are proposing any of this type of work. If the pipelines and troughs are beyond reasonable repair, we are willing to work with you to replace them. Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

In accordance with the Goodding's Onion Conservation Strategy, no new livestock structures, no placement of salt, no active trailing of livestock through occupied sites will be allowed. The occupied sites in Yeguas Allotment are in Sections 18 and 19 of Township 9S, Range 17W in the drainage running north and south approximately 1 mile southeast of Old Cabin Spring.

- 6. The Annual Operating Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Negrito/Yeguas allotments. 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 Rogers M. Steed, District Ranger, Reserve Ranger District, at P.O. Box 170, Reserve, NM 87830.

Feel free to contact Collin Ewing or myself at (505) 533-6231 if you have any questions or problems concerning this document.

/s/ Rogers M Steed  
ROGERS M. STEED  
District Ranger

2/10/06  
Date