



## Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

**Allotment:** Lower Plaza  
**Permittee:** Emil Kiehne and Sons Inc.  
**Permit Number:** 61297

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2007:

Authorized	From	To	Allotment
37 cow/calf	3/1/07	4/30/07	Lower Plaza

\*Prior to fall grazing season, please contact this office to make application and for AOI amendment.

2. **Management:**

Lower Plaza 2007 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Highway and North	3/01/07-4/30/07 (all cattle)
San Francisco (Ulibarri)	Rest

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.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

The maximum allowable use level set for the Lower Plaza Allotment is **30-40%**. Key area utilization monitoring will continue. Monitoring will be conducted at the approximate midpoint of the scheduled use period in each scheduled pasture. If utilization levels are approaching allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be moved to areas within the pasture or other pastures that are not approaching allowable use levels. In the event that areas not approaching the allowable use are not available, livestock will be removed from the allotment when allowable use rates are met. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring instances of over utilization. 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.

Pasture	Monitoring date
North	03/09/07
Highway	03/09/07



- 4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:** If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2007, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

**5. Salt and Supplement Policy**

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds (no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands).

**6. Range Improvements:**

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

In addition, specific maintenance discussed included:

**Fences:** Prior to stocking; the permittee will fix 100 yards of fence (3196) where it was burned by the Martinez fire. If you see the need to reconstruct any other fences please contact Collin or Jerry for materials and a permit modification.

**Water:** Advanced planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months. 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.

**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 Lower Plaza 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 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.

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ROGERS M. STEED  
District Ranger

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Date