



## Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

**Allotment:** O Bar O

**Permittee:** Jim and Judy Blair

**Permit Number:** 61229

**Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2008:

Authorized	From	To	Allotment
440 cow/calf	3/1/08	2/28/09	O Bar O

### 1. Management:

O Bar O 2008 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Horse Camp/O Bar O/ Elk Spring	3/01-5/31 (all cattle)
O Bar O Mountain/Hay Canyon/Scrub Oak	6/1-10/31 (all cattle)
Horse Camp/O Bar O/ Elk Spring	11/1-2/28 (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 allowable use level set for the O Bar O Allotment will be conservative use (**30-40%**). Key area utilization monitoring will continue. 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. 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
Horse Camp/O Bar O Canyon/Elk Spring	6/4/2008
O Bar O Mountain	9/9/2008
Hay Canyon/Scrub Oak	10/21/2008

- 3. Forage Growth and Water Availability:** If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2008, 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 O Bar O allotment includes Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PAC). In these PACs 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. 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 Permits must be maintained to a functional status.

In addition, specific maintenance discussed included:

**Fences:**

1. The fence burned by the Middle fire is still in need of reconstruction. The district has applied for fire rehabilitation funding for this project.
2. Permittee proposes to maintain/reconstruct #6337, O Bar O – Y Canyon fence.
3. If you recognize the need to reconstruct any other fences, please contact Jerry for materials and permit modification.

**Water:**

1. Reliable tank is in need of cleaning after the Bull fire. The district has applied for fire rehabilitation funding for this project.
  2. The O Bar O Mountain tanks planning is complete and the district is awaiting new permits from the Office of the State Engineer. Please contact Jerry to discuss cost sharing and for a permit modification if you find that you will be able to construct these tanks.
  3. 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. If you decide you would like to fence any of the springs on the allotment the district can provide the materials for these projects.
7. **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 O Bar O 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 Richard E. Markley, 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 Jerry Turner or myself at (575) 533-6231 if you have any questions or problems concerning this document.

/s/ Rogers M. Steed

12/19/2007

ROGERS M. STEED  
District Ranger

Date