



2010 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Lower Plaza

Permittee: Emil Kiehne and Sons Inc.

Permit Number: 61297

Authorization:

Authorized to graze the following in 2010:

| Authorized | From | To | Allotment |
|-------------|----------|---------|-------------|
| 37 cow/calf | 3/01/10 | 4/30/10 | Lower Plaza |
| 37 cow/calf | 11/01/10 | 2/28/11 | Lower Plaza |

Management:

Lower Plaza 2010 Pasture Rotation:

| Pasture | Time Frame |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kiehne North | 3/01/10-4/30/10 (all cattle) |
| Kiehne North | 11/01/10-2/28/11 (all cattle) |
| Highway | Rest |
| 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 the District has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

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 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Kiehne North | 05/04/2010 |
| Kiehne North | 10/26/2010 |
| Kiehne North | 02/25/2011 |

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2010 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

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).

Range Improvements:

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

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the district in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work.

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 following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

Fences:

Fences affected by the 2006 Martinez Fire were evaluated and funding was requested to complete necessary repair or replacement of fences. Fences include:

1. Leggett - Lower Plaza Allot. Boundary Fence #3196/OA/OB; reconstruct 2 miles.
2. Approximately 2 miles of fence #3224 repair is in progress.

Water:

3. Kiehne Spring #3253 needs a new trough installed.
4. Stock Tanks in Highway Pasture Rattlesnake Tank #3225 and Kiehne Tank #6496 will be evaluated for tank cleaning by permittee and district personnel in 2010.

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 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 John D. Pierson, District Ranger, Reserve Ranger District, at P.O. Box 170, Reserve, NM 87830.

Feel free to contact Aaron Baldrige or myself at (575) 533-6231 if you have any questions or comments concerning this document.

John D. Pierson

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District Ranger

Date: 1/05/2010