United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Tres Pierdas
Ranger District
P. O. Box 38
Tres Pierdas, NM 87577
575-758-8678
TT/TDD 575-758-8678
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2009

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)

TIO GRANDE ALLOTMENT # 00617

List of Permittees:

Paul Clark
Lawrence Gallegos
Maclovio Garcia
Peter & Sarah Marquez
D., R., & A. Quitana
Reverse S Slash Cattle Co.
Joseph L. Romero Jr.
Donald Sandoval
Ruben Sandoval
Wade Sandoval
Donald & Ann Shawcroft
John Shawcroft Ranches
Tio Grande Association
John Valdez
Edmundo Vigil

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIERDAS RANGER DISTRICT

_____ _____

Benjamin Romero, District Ranger ***Date***

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Annual Operating Instructions (AOI's)

INTRODUCTION

The Tio Grande Annual Operating Instructions meeting was held on February 20, 2009 at the Conejos Peak Ranger District. Tio Grande Grazing Association members attending the meeting included, Jackie and Rachel Bush, Jack Gilleland, Maclovio Garcia, John Shawcroft, and Donald Shawcroft, Pedro Marquez. Representing the U. S. Forest Service was Wayne Yonemoto. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) is a decision (and appeal if applicable) document that is made part of the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. The AOI includes guidance criteria described below that addresses annual resource conditions, livestock numbers, period of use, pasture rotations, monitoring and range improvement projects. The 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests continues to be program guidance. The objectives of this strategic plan continues to be a high priority and emphasizes collaboration, rangeland health, rangeland monitoring and permittee involvement**.**

The dry weather pattern condition includes the following. Within the Southwest, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 3-month forecast is increased chances of below normal precipitation Mar. through May, 2009, as well as, increased chances if above normal temperatures. The SPI definition that indicates the end-of-drought is for the SPI values to be positive 1.0 (or higher) for the past 12 months. The SPI for the past 12 months thru February is described as *Near Normal* (-0.74 to +0.74) so the end of drought has not occurred. Within the District, during the periods of Oct. to Dec., 2008 and Jan. to Feb., 2009, there were areas of favorable above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures.

The authorized eartag color is *yellow*. All authorized cattle will be eartagged correctly with the authorized letter/number. The authorized use for the current grazing season is as follows:

Table 1 – Permittee Information and Season of Use (Term Permit/Annual Authorized Use Request Form)

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag letter	Remarks
	#	Season	#	Season		
Maclovio Garcia	100 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	94 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	G	
Peter & Sarah Marquez	76 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	72 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	P	
Reverse S Slash Cattle Co.	155c/c	5/15 – 10/14	146 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	S	
Joseph L. Romero Jr.	60c/c	5/15 – 10/14	56 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	X	
Donald Sandoval	36c/c	5/15 – 10/14	34 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	D	
Jack C. Gilleland	219c/c	5/15 – 10/14	206 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	R	
Wade Sandoval	60c/c	5/15 – 10/14	56 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	C	
Donald & Ann Shawcroft	95c/c	5/15 – 10/14	89 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	B	
John Shawcroft Ranches	187c/c	5/15 – 10/14	176 c/c	5/15 – 10/14	M	
Tio Grande Association	33 Bulls	5/15 – 10/14	31 Bulls	5/15 – 10/14		
Total	988 C/c 33 Bulls	5/15 – 10/14 153 days	929 C/c 31 Bulls	5/15 – 10/14 153 days		6% Reduction

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils meet the criteria for

grazing and the final authorized livestock number and is tentatively scheduled for May 11, 2009.

Compliance with New Mexico Statewide Regulations, 21.30.6 NMAC, Bovine Trichomoniasis, effective June 17, 2005, becomes a term and condition of the United States Forest Service term grazing permit. We ask that you comply with the NM State Trichomoniasis regulations.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Tio Grande Allotment. Tres Piedras district range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time that livestock enter or leave the Carson NF.

Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (*Total Nonuse*), or part of the permitted numbers (*Partial Nonuse*). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee is approved for "*total nonuse*", the permttee is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows **(actual dates will be based on range readiness determination)**:

Table 2 - 5/15 – 10/14 (153 days) – Tentative Rotation Schedule

Pasture	Tentative Dates (# of Days)	Days (min to max)	Actual Use	Reason for Adjustments
Canada Tio Grande	Trailing Use			
Placitas/Montoya	5/15 – 6/23 (40)	25 – 32 - 45		
Tecolote	6/24 – 8/10 (48)	35 – 45 - 50		
Brokeoff	8/11 – 9/14 (35)	28 – 35 - 41		
Lucero Lakes	9/15 – 10/14 (30)	25 – 35 - 42		
Corral	Exit Use	1 – 6 - 10		
Total	153 (Range readiness inspection determines the authorized entry date)			

REVIEW OF 2008 MONITORING DATA

The 2008 monitoring information in the Allotment Study file was reviewed. The allotment was mostly dry through June but forage production improved after the July, August precipitation (above normal). Participants discussed areas of below average to average production and average to above average production, livestock distribution management and utilization. All pastures had a majority of grazeable acres at average to above average production. Utilization guidelines 20% to 40% (end of season) in each pasture was met. FS monitoring indicated end-of-growing season utilization: Lucero Lakes-10% to 20%; Brokeoff (Sisneros)- <20%; Brokeoff (El Valle)- 35%; Tecolote (El Valle)-45% to 35%;Placitas-Montoya-35%; Corral- <20%. FS inspect the riparian at Canada Tio Grande in the Tio Grande Pasture and met required standard. Cutthroat Trout habitat in the Canada Tio Grande Segment of the Tecolote met the riparian standard at the end of the growing season (Exit Sept. 16). FS didn't inspect Rio Nutritas in the Tecolote Pasture. Cisneros Park area was above 4 inch stubble height at the end of the growing season. End of Season Monitoring was discussed and referenced.

2008 AOI COMPLIANCE

1. Use Canada Tio Grande to trail/gather/cleanout from Tecolote and not graze as part of the grazing rotation system. Within Corral pasture, manage herd and days to prevent concentrated use adjacent to the water source. Corral pasture was grazed in the fall by 200 head of cattle.
2. Reduce the incidents of livestock unauthorized use/excess use from the T. A. Grant/other allotments.
3. FS didn't monitor Rio Nutritas Creek (Tecolote) to reduce livestock driveway impacts. Tio Grande cattle if present at site would be herded to other area. Do not salt in this area or northern area of Tecolote.
4. Improve herding by rider to minimize grazing in the Valle Grande (Tecolote/Brokeoff); Canada Tio Grande riparian; Rio Nutritas (Tecolote). Do not salt/supplemental feed in the Rio Nutritas drainage or northern portion of the Tecolote. Do not salt/supplemental feed in the Valle Grande or adjoining areas. Salt only on top of the Tecolote mesa. Do no salt between Brokeoff southern tanks. Move cattle to the northwestern area of the Tecolote pasture upon entering the pasture. Met the riparian standards for the 2008 grazing season in both the Canada Tio Grande of Tio Grande Pasture and Tecolote Pasture.

2008 ACTUAL USE

The Appendix of the AOI, references the permit. The appendix will contain permitted number, (period of use), authorized number (period of use), actual number (period of use); pasture rotation schedule and amendments to the AOI.
Actual Use: 889 c/c; 30 bulls; 919 total, 5/25 – 10/11, (140 days)

Tio Grande	Trailing/gathering/cleanout of Tecolote
Lucero Lakes	5/25 – 6/26 (33 days)
Brokeoff	6/27– 8/8 (43 days)
Tecolote	8/9 – 9/15 (38 days)
Placitas/Montoya	9/16 – 10/11 (26 days)
Corral	Rest, Slight Use (200c/c)

<u>MONITORING</u>

Please contact Tres Piedras RD with any questions regarding monitoring and whether you wish to participate in the annual monitoring of your allotment. Your participation is encouraged.
The following monitoring assessments, evaluations and methods may be conducted on the allotment:

Weather update (SPI and temperature)
Soil moisture depth
Water availability
Reading paired annual production/utilization cages with supporting photos and documentation, Rapid Assessment Method, Cover/Frequency, Parker 3-Step, Grazing Response Index,
Key site map of the Allotment
Key forage list showing community type, species list and stubble height
Range readiness stubble ht./utilization guidelines

Grazing season monitoring stubble ht./utilization guidelines
End of season stubble ht./utilization guidelines
Range readiness documentation
Watershed health indicators

Monitoring Methods
Other monitoring methods that may be used on the allotment are: Parker 3-Step, Rapid Assessment Method (RAM), Ocular Estimate Method, Ocular Utilization by Dry Weight, Photo Point, Range Trend Plot and Cover-Frequency.

UTILIZATION GUIDELINES
Within each pasture, grazing utilization would occur at 20% to 40% of the annual available forage (not to exceed 40%) and would be assessed at the end of the growing season.
(Utilization guidelines in the riparian area (Aguaje de la Petaca) includes leaving 4 inches of stubble height of the annual available forage when livestock exit the pasture). When proper use levels are reached within the pasture, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture *unless other management considerations require livestock removal before proper use levels are reached.*

Table 3 - Key Forage Species:

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Corral/ Placitas-Montoya	Western Wheatgrass Kentucky Blue Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 6” 4 – 6” 4 – 6”
Brokeoff/Lucero Lakes/ Tecolote	AZ / Thurber Fescue Kentucky Blue Needleandthread Mt. Muhly	6 – 8” 4 – 6” 4 – 6” 4 – 6”
Riparian Areas	Red Top Kentucky Blue Sedges	4 – 6” 4 – 6” 4 – 6”

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is required. A 3 day period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the pasture/allotment.

Regular herding and riding management practices are important to achieve proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the optimal duration of the grazing period. Salting practices are also described in the cattle operator instructions at the end of this AOI.

AOI OBJECTIVES
1. Rotate pastures to vary the cool and warm growing season rest and allow the opportunity for cool and warm season growth.
2. Minimize the time spent in order to improve forage vigor.
3. Maintain or improve the green zone forage.

4. Improve livestock distribution when initially entering the pasture by moving small groups throughout the pasture, to various salt locations with rider representation from all the permittees, every few days herding/moving livestock within the authorized pasture.

Management Actions 2008 EA:
Short term Actions

- Range in livestock numbers, entry dates, exit dates and AUMs
- 3087 to 6809 AUMs; 107 to 153 days (5/17 – 6/1 to 9/15 – 10/16)
- Deferred/Rest Rotation Grazing System – 4 pasture deferred/rest rotation; 2 pasture (Placitas, Lucero Lakes) entry rotation (Range Readiness entry date for Lucero Lakes is usually later than Placitas. For example, if Lucero Lakes entry date is May 22 (7 days later than May 15), then there is a reduction of 5% of days/AUMs).
- 20% to 40% utilization monitoring guidelines
- Corral – limit days to 7 to 10 days; limit number to < 150 c/c.
- Tio Grande – Authorize for only trailing of cattle through pasture; manage 1 issued crossing permit (35 to 40 cattle) to reduce Upper Canada TG impacts.
- MSO pastures – Brokeoff/Tecolote
- Brokeoff - herd away from Cisneros Park
- Tecolote - not graze before 6/22; rest 1 of 4 years; manage crossing permit (1500 – 1600 cattle) to reduce Rio Nutritas riparian impacts. Herd away from area between Canada Tio Grande and Rio Nutritas and do not place salt in the same area.
- Entry pastures – Placitas/Corral/Lucero Lakes
  Placitas – alternate as entry pasture with Lucero Lakes.
  Lucero Lakes – herd away from riparian exclosures; alternate as entry pasture with Placitas.
- Brokeoff, Tecolote, Lucero Lakes Riparian Areas – herd daily away from riparian.
- All pastures - Salt areas in uplands (0.5 to 1.0 mile from water sources).
- Projects – No Projects (2 tanks (3-5 years) eliminated from analysis).
- Astragalus ripleyi – after inventory; management prescription of periodically grazing after seed development (May through June, 5/1 to 6/30); Tecolote - rest 1 of 4 years; possibly rest other pastures (Corral, Placitas, Lucero Lakes, Brokeoff) 1 of 6 to 8 years.

Pasture	TEU	Acres
Corral	650	628
Placitas	650	762
Lucero Lakes	545	1066
Brokeoff	545	749
Tecolote	545	429
Total		3634

Adaptive Management Actions Table (Short term – 1 to 5 years; Long term – 6 to 10 years)
Short term Actions

- Riparian additional actions - Projects - Install exclosures (Tecolote – 15 acres in Upper Canada Tio Grande in 3 to 5 years); BMPs of herding, more riders, salt placement; reduce AUMs

- Upland meadows additional actions – Delay entry; reduce AUMs; exit early.

Adaptive Management Actions Table
Long term Actions

- Riparian additional actions – Projects - Install exclosures (Tecolote – 15 -80 acres in Rio Nutritas; Tio Grande – 200 acres in Lower Canada Tio Grande, 2 mile fence.
- Upper Canada Tio Grande/Rio Nutritas Area – Rest this portion of Tecolote 1 of 2 to 3 years.
- Upland meadows additional actions – Similar to short term, including increased severity of AUM reduction or period of use reduction.
- Additional EA in future – Prescribed burns/new water sources.

2008 EA Decision Notice includes:

- A range of 660 cow/calf and 21 bulls up to 988 cow/calf and 33 bulls for a period up to 153 days will be authorized. The lower number represents the livestock number that has been authorized during past drought periods. The maximum livestock number is the number that can be supported once the desired conditions for vegetation, soils, and water resources have been reached.

- The range of entry dates will be from May 15 to June 1 and the range of exit dates will be from September 15 to October 14. Entry into the Tecolote pasture (upper Canada de Tio Grande) will not occur prior to June 22, to minimize disturbance to Rio Grande cutthroat trout spawning habitat.

- Grazing management will be a 4-pasture deferred rotation system (Lucero Lakes, Placitas, Brokeoff and Tecolote) and pastures may be rested as needed. At a minimum, the Tecolote pasture will be rested one in four years. The Tio Grande pasture will be used for trailing only, and the Corral pasture will have a limited number of cattle (150 head) and days (7 to 10 days) of use.

- Depending on the vegetation type and current range conditions, a conservative grazing intensity with an allowable utilization range of 20% to 40% will be used.

- The following herding requirements will be made part of the annual operating instructions (AOI): (1) In Tio Grande and Tecolote pasture, trailway management and the livestock crossing permits will be modified along the Canada de Tio Grande and Rio Nutritas to move livestock through these areas to reduce the time spent in the riparian corridor, (2) In Brokeoff pasture, livestock will be herded away from Cisneros Park, and, (3) In Lucero Lakes pasture, livestock will be herded away from riparian exclosures. The herding requirements will begin in year 1.
- In the Tecolote pasture, a 15-acre riparian exclosure fence will be constructed beginning in year 3. The fence will be of native material, 3 strand wire, and will be of a lay-down type. The height will be approximately 56” to effectively keep cattle out of the riparian area. The fence will be constructed up to 300 feet from the Canada de Tio Grande riparian zone.

- Once surveys for Forest Service sensitive plant species, *Astragalus ripleyi* (milkvetch), are completed on the allotment, and the extent of the population is known, the timing of livestock use will be adjusted to maintain plant composition and diversity, if needed. The grazing system and season of use may already meet milkvetch needs.

PERMITTEE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS (Also refer to the Project Section)

1. Livestock operators are not using the Stock Driveway.
2. Contact Association when FS plans to monitor pastures.
3. Improve herding by rider to minimize grazing in the Valle Grande (Tecolote/Brokeoff); Canada Tio Grande riparian; Rio Nutritas (Tecolote). Do not salt/supplemental feed in the Rio Nutritas drainage or northern portion of the Tecolote. Move cattle to the northwestern area of the Tecolote pasture upon entering the pasture.
4. Hunters left 7-10 gates open. Murphy's fence is down, Lagunitas/Jawbone fence @ TA grant needs to be repaired and Tio Grande/ TA Grant fence of 1.5 miles needs to be repaired.
5. Contact NM Livestock Board about attempting to notify owners of strays in the corral before opening the corral gates and allowing the strays on the allotment. Then, the number of strays on the allotment could actually be reduced by the owners removing the strays when corralled instead of at the end-of-the-grazing season when they become such a large number of strays.
6. Association submitted scoping letter response to keep specific roads open.

Annual Authorized Use Request Form

Credits from previous year, if applicable, would apply to the current bill (929 c/c & 31 Bulls 5/15-10/14). The final livestock numbers and entry date would be determined after range readiness inspections. Therefore, additional billing may be required after the first billing.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE

Range improvement projects maintenance labor/costs are the responsibilities of the permittee. Term permit assigned projects such as, allotment boundary fences, pasture boundary fences, cattleguards, earthen dam stock tanks, pit tanks and other structural improvements must be maintained prior to permittee entry onto the allotment. When allotments are in non-use the permittees are still required to maintain their assigned improvements.
The following are improvements which require special attention during the 2009 grazing season.

2008 Projects Completed: Received additional rider grant from the Quivira Coalition. Complete 5 wire, 300ft fence at Stewart Meadows/Colvert area.

Allotment maintenance projects: Maintenance of earthen dam tank at the Valle in Brokeoff and repair of the Brokeoff/Lucero Lakes fence/braces. Tio Grande Assoc. has set up a 2006 fund account for Boothill corral maintenance by collecting use fees from operators.

2009 Project Priority (new/maintenance): 1) Begin fence reconstruction on the east allotment boundary (1mile); 2) FS repair top rail fence at Montoya/Stewart Meadows corner; 3) Complete Placitas Spring addition into the Montoya area, if Categorical Exclusion NEPA document is completed but work on the repair of the Placitas spring in the Placitas pasture; 4) FS issue materials for 1500ft of fence (4 H-Braces) at East side Montoya/Private boundary; 5) FS issue 4ft gate and 16 ft gate at Stewart Meadows colvert; 6) Boothill corral has bull wire that needs to be cut;

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Future Desired Projects

Stewart Meadows Water Development - Montoya	Develop proposal for funding. This water development placed on hold. And instead an EA decision has been completed for a livestock watergap, located west of the Rio San Antonio culverts, adjacent to FR 87AA. Materials purchased. FS planned to construct in 9/07 but will construct in 2009. Completed water gap in 2008. In 2009, FS has to add gabion or relocate water crossing fence because of steep embankment.
Exclosure - Cisneros Park Spring Development - Brokeoff	Approval for construction given with the spring development; fence specifications and material to be provided/issued. Not completed
Solar powered pump for Lucero lakes area	Discussed
Repair spillways on all earthen dam stock tanks	Discussed
Tio Grande East Boundary Fence – Montoya/Lucero Lakes	2009 second highest priority. Approximately 4 of the 6 miles of the existing fence may require reconstruction. FS would provide material for the reconstruction of 1 mile/year. May begin on the NE corner of Section 16, T 30 N, R 8 E, then south direction. The Tio Grande Association would accept maintenance responsibility.
Boothill Corral Expansion - Montoya	Within the existing archaeological surveyed area of surface disturbance. 2008-completed pen. Association wants Guardrail upgrade in the future.
Posito Spring Development - Brokeoff	Discuss with Tusas about sharing the cost of valve repair; Posito spring was dry in 2006. Remove discarded barbed wire in the area.
Additional AOI Discussion of Projects Below	
Existing Watertrap @ Rio San Antonio needs improved division fence with San Antone - Placitas	Meet @ site to inspect.
Improve Placita Spring - Placitas	Move drinker further down (50 ft.). Pete Gallegos, NRCS had designed a pipeline extension in 2009. Need to complete CE.
Improve Waterlot @ Nutritas – Canada Tio Grande	San Antone shares Waterlot that is presently poorly designed. Redesign Waterlot for improved access by both allotments.
In Tecolote, widen with dozer, a natural trail from the Valle to the creek or a trail from NE area into the NW area of Tio Grande pasture.	Discussed.
Tecolote Cattleguard	Needs to be cleaned.
Gate @ Tecolote/Olguin	Needs to be metal gate.
Repair two earthen dam stock tanks @ Cisneros Park drainage - Brokeoff	2009 Highest priority.
Develop spring @ Cisneros Park drainage – Brokeoff	Discussed.
Maintain one earthen dam stock tank each year with dozer.	Discussed.

EXCESS USE AND UNAUTHORIZED USE

Permittees are encouraged to notify the Tres Pierdas Ranger District of any known violation by permittees (excess use) or non-permittees (unauthorized use). Grazing permit holders who graze more livestock than authorized will receive a Notice of Non-Compliance, charged an excess use grazing fee, and the term permit may be suspended or cancelled in whole or part

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed. The travel management rule requires each Ranger District to designate those roads trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be included in the AOI in the future.

A second travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras on March 21, 2007 (The first travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras July 11, 2006). Attendees provided comments to the USFS regarding roads or trails that should remain open or closed; and access routes to range improvements that are needed within the allotment. Scoping letter dated February 2, 2009 was mailed to the public.

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ACTUAL USE INFORMATION

TIO GRANDE ALLOTMENT
2009 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use Date on	Planned Use Date Off	Actual Use Date on	Actual Use Date Off	Remarks
Canada Tio Grande	929 Head of cattle	Trailing Use				
Placitas/Montoya	929 Head of cattle	5/15	6/23			
Tecolote	929 Head of cattle	6/24	8/10			
Brokeoff	929 Head of cattle	8/11	9/14			
Lucero Lakes	929 Head of cattle	9/15	10/14			
Corral	929 Head of cattle	Exit Use				

Number of Head counted on: _____.

Number of head lost:_____.

Additional Comments:

Table 1

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

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UTILIZATION INFORMATION
TIO GRANDE ALLOTMENT
2009 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 2

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
Canada Tio Grande					
Placitas/Montoya					
Tecolote					
Brokeoff					
Lucero Lakes					
Corral					

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ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION ADJUSTMENTS
TIO GRANDE ALLOTMENT
2009 GRAZING SEASON

Date	Action Item	Action Taken	Initials

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Appendix
Grazing Permittee Instructions for Cattle Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District

1. **Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.**
2. **Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.**
3. **A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.**
4. **Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.**
5. **The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.**

Management on the Range

1. **The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.**
2. **Obtaining the best distribution of cattle on mountain ranges is made difficult because of their natural tendency to gather in openings, watering sites, drainages, riparian areas and meadows. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.**
3. **Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Frequent movement of salt within slight to light use areas is required to improve the pattern of use. Cattle should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.**
4. **When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger. All cattle on the allotment would be handled as one herd. Moves between pastures may be handled as drifting moves where gates to the next successive pasture may be opened 2 days before the agreed scheduled move date. The exit pasture that the cattle are leaving must be cleaned-out within 3 days after the scheduled date for moving.**

Salting

1. **Salt must be placed in each pasture prior to cattle entering the pasture. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, springs, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line**

instead of in the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

Range Improvement Projects

1. **Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.**
2. **Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent materials. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.**
3. **All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after cattle leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.**
4. **Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.**

Special Attention Items

1. **Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on your allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.**
2. **All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.**
3. **Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or other unrideable stock will be allowed.**
4. **Eartags will be provided initially to new permittees on allotments that are tagged. After initial allocation of tags, 10 percent will be provided per grazing season.**
5. **Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).**
6. **Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.**

Report wildfires to: **Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758-6209.**
If you have any questions, please contact the Tres Piedras Ranger District office.