

**2008 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TIO GORDITO ALLOTMENT 650
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECITVES

The Tio Gordito Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on March 5, 2008 at Tres Piedras Ranger District from 2:00-4:00pm. Tio Gordito attending permittees were, Peter Casados, Lawrence Garcia, Alfonso Lovato, and Jake Vigil. Forest Service representatives were Wayne Yonemoto and Anna Dominguez.

The Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made part of the Term Grazing Permit. Carson Forest Annual Operating Instructions are posted on the Carson Forest Web site. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson>, located under, Natural resources, Range, District, Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions contain items that are guidance criteria addressing proper use of the Tio Gordito allotment. Permittees are advised to review terms and conditions stated on their permits that were completed after NEPA decision in 1998.

II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

A. Climate

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referred to during 2008 grazing season. The plan stresses communication, permittee involvement, monitoring, range administration, and reference to the Standard Precipitation Index addressing adaptive management during near normal, drought and drought recovery conditions. Permittees are recommended to have a drought contingency plan.

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) will be used to define drought conditions following the 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. SPI values are available from the Western Regional Climate Center at www.wrcc.dri.edu. The following are indicators in determining drought conditions. Conditions will be determined by the size of the negative number, the larger the negative number, the more severe the drought. Example: SPI values of -0.70 or less for the past month signal drought conditions. SPI values of positive 1.0 or more for the past 12 months signal the end of drought. The following are the 1 and 12 month SPI through the end of January 2008.

1-month SPI through the end of January 2008 is +0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)

12-month SPI through the end of January 2008 is -0.74 to 0.74 (near normal conditions)

Tres Piedras precipitation records are referenced in recommendation for Annual Authorized Use. Allotment stocking should adjust with effective precipitation patterns. 2008 winter-spring effective precipitation is unknown at this time and will determine adaptive management actions with the objective to maintain/improve forage resources.

The 2008 Fire season is forecasted to be normal based on the National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook Report 1/08-4/08. It is recommended that permittees have a fire contingency plan for livestock management.

Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758-6209.

B. Review of Tio Gordito 2007 grazing season

2007 summary references available information on allotment inspection reports, monitoring studies, evaluation analysis worksheet, working deferred maintenance list, and climatic reports. Current years management objectives are developed based on 2007 information and 2008 forecasted weather conditions.

On March 2, 2007 Tio Gordito permittees agreed to a 29% reduction in authorized numbers addressing personal preference and resource protection. Staggered on dates and split herd actual counts were 33% reduction in numbers. 2007 credits will be applied to permittees who took additional reduction based on personal preference.

Prior to livestock entry Kelvin, Clinton and Tyler Huffaker were approved to use Ambrose pasture with a split herd onto the allotment by Benjamin Romero, Tres Piedras District Ranger. This pasture had not been considered in the rotation schedule in the past 5+ years. Inspection of the pasture was not completed prior to or after livestock use therefore, utilization is unknown. This pasture has not been used due to the low level of private boundary fence maintenance located East of high way 285. The approximate 160 acre pasture was added to the 2007 AOI and will be left on the rotation schedule for future consideration of use if the boundary fences are maintained and resource conditions allow. Servilleta tank pasture can also be placed on the 2008 AOI and considered to be used if boundary fences are maintained in the future.

The other split herd entered Pinon pasture with about half the authorized herd. Trick tanks did not have water and permittees hauled water to the pasture for 40 day duration. Actual use goals were met in the Pinon pasture with the reduced herd.

Due to low water availability the staggered herds were combined 7/3/07 in dual use of Red Mesa and Wheatgrass.

Tio Gordito livestock were not counted on by USFS in 2007. Permittees were contacted and reported actual numbers and on date. Actual rotation schedule was completed in the same manner with reports from 3 different permittees.

During 2007 grazing season USFS range staff priorities were in range NEPA on other range allotments, therefore, minimizing field inspections on Tio Gordito. Actual use reported on the pastures with the reduced livestock herd and summer precipitation are the bases for documenting that 40% utilization standard was met throughout the allotment. Areas around watering points probably had more than 40% utilization by all ungulates throughout the year. This is typical under all circumstances?

The 2007-2008 winter precipitation changed the SPI to moderately wet conditions. The 12 month SPI is still near normal conditions. The 2008 predicted weather forecast is above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation though the end of May 2008. It is recommended that permittees continue the 29-33% reduction in 2008.

The following are summarized objectives for 2008 grazing season reviewed with permittees at the AOI meeting on March 5, 2008.

- **Tio Gordito allotment**, range readiness conditions will determine rotation and adaptive management adjustments based upon water availability forage production, and early elk utilization on cool season forage. It is recommended not to split the herd in 2008 grazing season and follow recommended HM use if resource allows. Completion of Tio Gordito Working Deferred Maintenance list describing access to range improvements is a permittee and USFS objective. Items emphasized in the Grazing Permittee Instruction for Cattle Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District are: #2 only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service and 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. #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.
- **Pinon pasture**, If there is water availability in the trick tanks the pasture can be used. Permittees should not rely on water availability in the unfenced private playa.
- **Wheatgrass pasture**, if water availability is limited Wheatgrass pasture and Las Tablas may have to be used together as the second pasture. Salting strategy needs to be documented addressing dual use of these two pastures. Permittees requested fence materials to repair fences that receive high elk damage, 30-40 posts for the South boundary of Tio Gordito. Try to keep pasture use separate if watering points allow.
- **Red Mesa/Las Tablas Pasture**, need for alternative watering point in this pasture to limit the combined use of Red Mesa and Wheatgrass. Need to review agreements made with USFS and Quivera Coalition for trick tanks. Cool season production/use and water availability will determine 2008 rotation. Maintain pasture fences prior to cattle use of the pasture. Try to keep pasture use separate if watering points allow.
- **Tio Gordito pasture**, the availability of water increases use throughout the year by all ungulates. Review in spring for early elk utilization is critical for permittee monitoring. It is critical to document elk utilization prior to livestock entry to adjust rotation using the grazing response index monitoring method. Permittees asked USFS if outfitter special use permits were issued to Horse back riding in the surrounding area, USFS will ask special use permit department to answer permittees question.
- **Malapias pasture**, private landowners need to be informed of fence responsibilities and livestock management for the Tio Gordito allotment. Deferred maintenance fence # 8009, 8010, 8012 boundary fences may not be 100% maintained by private landowners therefore, permittees will have to increase herding to keep authorized livestock in Malapias pasture. Herding objective is to minimize livestock in Highland Estates subdivision. Salt on ridges away from boundary to avoid conflict with Highland Estates subdivision. Manage livestock as often as possible to keep livestock within USFS boundary during rotation in Malapias pasture. There were 2-3 reports of Tio Gordito cows in Highland estates in 2007 which is lower than 2006.
- **Sawmill pasture**, 2008 management recommendations are to maintain interior fence and salt away from water and roads.

C. 2008 Range Readiness

Inspection of 2008 range readiness meeting attendance is strongly recommended to review range conditions on 5/9/08 at 9:00 A.M. at Rest Area Trick Tank. Evaluation of range readiness conditions will determine what adaptive management adjustments are needed addressing proper use.

D. 2008 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request

The livestock grazing fee for grazing year 2008 is \$1.35 c/c and \$.27 e/l on National Forests. 2008 unauthorized use of National Forests is \$2.24 for livestock and \$.45 for sheep and goats. The 2008 authorized livestock and grazing season is no guarantee that grazing can occur for the tentative rotation. Resource conditions will dictate alterations in rotations or removal from the allotment.

Two permittees are taking non-use and one permittee is taking 13% reduction based on personal preference. Tio Gordito is authorized 15% reduction in total numbers for the 2008 grazing season.

The 2008 permitted authorized data reflects the record of waived livestock permits to the USFS in favor of certain individuals described in the permitted/authorized data and details below:

- Kelvin Huffaker waived 95 c/c to the USFS in favor of Eric and Bryan Vigil**
- Clinton and Tylor Huffaker waived 33 c/c to the USFS in favor of Eric and Bryan Vigil**
- Jake and Eric Vigil waived 140 c/c to the USFS in favor of Eric and Bryan Vigil**
- Edward Lovato waived 4 c/c to the USFS in favor of Lawrence Garcia**
- Edward Lovato waived 3 c/c to the USFS in favor of Alfonso Lovato**

Table 1-Tio Gordito 2008 permitted/authorized data. HM and AUM formula which is used in adaptable management is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf) =AUM. HM and AUM are used as a scale of reference.

Permitted season 5/18-10/15, 151 days, Total 349 c/c, 1735 HM, 2288 AUM	2008 Authorized season 5/18-10/14, 151 days with 298 c/c (1479 HM/1952 AUM). 15% reduction in numbers.	2008 actual season, days, numbers, and HM/AUM
Peter Casados 34 c/c, 169 HM, 223 AUM	Non-use, personal preference	
Lawrence Garcia 19 c/c, 94 HM, 124AUM, 2008-23 c/c 114 HM, 151 AUM (waived permit from Edward Lovato)	20 c/c, 99 HM, 130 AUM, 13% reduction- personal preference.	
Clinton and Tyler Huffaker 33 c/c, 164 HM, 216 AUM,	Waived to USFS in favor of Eric and Bryan Vigil	
Kelvin Huffaker 95 c/c, 472 HM, 623 AUM	Waived to USFS in favor of Eric and Bryan Vigil.	
Alfonso Lovato 7 c/c, 60 HM, 79 AUM, 2008 waived permit from Edward Lovato-10 c/c, 49 HM, 64 AUM	10 c/c, 49 HM, 64 AUM, authorized full numbers.	

Edward Lovato 7 c/c, 35 HM, 46 AUM,	Waived permits to USFS in favor of 4 c/c to Lawrence Garcia and 3 to Alfonso Lovato	
Preceliano Roybal 14 c/c, 70 HM, 92 AUM	Non-use, personal preference	
Jake Vigil 140 c/c, 695 HM, 917 AUM.	Waived 140 c/c to USFS in favor of Eric and Bryan Vigil	
Eric and Bryan Vigil 268 c/c, 1330 HM, 1755 AUM	268 c/c, 1330 HM, 1755 AUM, authorized full numbers.	
Total 349 c/c, 1735 HM, 2288 AUM	298 c/c, 1479 HM, 1952 AUM. 15% reduction in numbers	

E. Tentative Rotation Schedule

All allotment rotation plans are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as lack of water or low forage production. Range Readiness inspection will confirm availability of water and adjust 2008 tentative rotation schedule if needed. The pastures currently have tentative dates with authorized minimum-**goal**-maximum days, HM and AUM. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock addressing utilization standard of 20- 40% of annual production. Elk utilization monitoring is recommended so that adjustments to the rotation can be made. If the tentative rotation schedule needs adjustments, permittees are to follow “Grazing Permittee Instructions for cattle operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District,” item 5. The Annual operating Instruction (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative schedule rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

Table 2-2008 Pasture rotation. HM and AUM formula which is used in adaptable management is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf) =AUM. HM and AUM are used as a scale of reference.

Tentative rotation of pastures	Permitted Minimum-Goal-maximum Days HM AUM	2008 15% reduction in numbers 298 c/c, 5/18-10/15, 151 days	2008 Actual	2008 Carson Forest standard of utilization at end of season
Pinon	20- 22 ---25 days 229- 252 -286 HM 302- 333 -377 AUM	5/18-6/8 20- 22 ---25 days 195- 215 -244 HM 257- 284 -222 AUM	5/18,	
Ambrose		Assessment needed		
Servilleta		Assessment needed		

Wheatgrass	1-7-10 days 11-80-115 HM 15-106-152 AUM	6/9-6/15 1-7-10 days 10- 69 -97 HM 13- 91 -128 AUM		
Red Mesa/Las Tablas	30--- 36 ---60 days 344-413-688 HM 454-545-908 AUM	6/16-7/21 30--- 36 ---60 days 298- 352 -587 HM 393- 464 -774 AUM		
Malipas	30--- 36 ---60 days 344-413-688 HM 454-545-908 AUM	7/22-8/24 30-- 34 -36---60 days 293- 333 -353-588 HM 386- 440 -466-776 AUM		
Sawmill	20-- 22 ---60 days 229-252-688 HM 302-332-908 AUM	8/25-9/23 20--22-- 30 --60 days 195-215- 294 -587 HM 257-284- 388 -774AUM		
Tio Gordito	20-- 22 ----30 days 229-252-344 HM 302-332-454 AUM	9/24-10/15 20-- 22 ----30 days 195- 216 -294 HM 257- 285 -388 AUM		

F. Monitoring references and Utilization standards

The following list describes priority monitoring data of the Tio Gordito allotment addressing proper use.

1. Tio Gordito Evaluation analysis worksheet
2. Elk utilization prior to livestock entry date
3. Working deferred maintenance list
4. SPI , weather forecast and water availability
5. Soil moisture depth and temperature
6. Production cages, Parker, and permittee key areas, reviewed with methods listed on the Tres Piedras Monitoring Plan
7. Key forage list per pasture
8. Key areas reviewed if accessible
9. Existing stubble heights on key species--Production/Vigor of key species per pasture at range readiness and end of season

The 2008 AOI lists ocular descriptions of utilization for permittee reference. Descriptions are obtained from the “Utilization study Data-Ocular Estimate Method, Key Herbaceous Species, Form R3-2200-OEH”.

1. **0-5% utilization**, Rangeland shows no evidence of grazing use: or rangeland has appearance of negligible grazing.
2. **6-20% utilization**, Rangeland has appearance of very slight grazing, Key herbaceous forage plants many be topped or slightly used. Current seed stalks and young plants of key herbaceous species are a little disturbed.

3. **21-40% utilization**, Rangeland may be topped, skimmed or grazed in patches. Low value herbaceous plants are ungrazed and 60-80% of the current seed stalks of key herbaceous species remain intact. Most young plants are undamaged.
4. **41-60% utilization**, rangeland appears entirely covered as uniform natural features and facilitates will allow. 15-25% of the current seed stalks of key herbaceous species remain intact. No more than 10% of the low value herbaceous forage plants are utilized (Moderate use does not imply proper use)
5. **61-70% utilization**, Rangeland has appearance of complete use. Key herbaceous species are almost completely utilized with less than 10% of the current seed stalks remaining. Shoots of rhizomatous grasses are missing. More than 10% of low value herbaceous forage plants have been utilized.
6. **81-100% utilization**, Rangeland has mown appearance and there are indications of repeated coverage. There is no evidence of reproduction or current seed stalks of key herbaceous species. Key herbaceous forage species are completely utilized. Remaining stubble of preferred grasses is grazed to soil surface.

Early elk utilization and drought conditions can stunt forage production which could affect permitted grazing time and contribute to % utilization at the end of the season. It is recommended that permittees have a contingency plan due to the early elk utilization that occurs on the allotment/pastures. If elk utilize the pasture prior to livestock entry and the remaining forage availability is low, other pasture entry and exit dates may be affected. Allotment evaluation analysis worksheet has been organized to document these factors influencing production and vigor of forage. Analysis of quantitative/qualitative spreadsheet data is a reference for estimating if standard of utilization at the end of the growing season was met. Utilization is not to exceed 40% of annual forage production at the end of the year. Riparian utilization standard is 4" stubble height of the annual available forage. The few riparian areas identified in Tio Gordito are intermittent influencing the 4" standard stubble height. Updated maps are necessary to clearly identify riparian areas referencing soil type and existing species composition. Below is a table of key species with stubble heights requirements for pasture entry.

Table 3-Tio Gordito key species requirements

Pastures	Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures	Range Readiness 5/9/08	End of season 10/X/08	Estimated production/vigor
	Pinon			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+" Western Wheatgrass 6+" Blue gramma 1.5"			
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+" Western Wheatgrass 6+" Blue gramma 1.5"			
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+" Western Wheatgrass 6+" Blue gramma 1.5"			
	Wheatgrass			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+" Western Wheatgrass 6+" Arizona fescue 8+" Blue gramma 1.5"			

Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
	Red Mesa/Las Tablas			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
	Aguge/Tio Gordito			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
	Malipias			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
	Sawmill			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			

Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgass 6+” Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5”			

III. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Deferred maintenance assigned in the Term Grazing Permit requires annual completed maintenance on allotment boundary fences, interior fences, cattleguards, stock tanks and other range improvement projects prior to livestock entry. Deferred maintenance of existing projects is a priority over reconstruction or new construction. All construction must have approval of the District Ranger.

The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent material. Additional technical maintenance information and specification guides can be found on the Natural Resource Conservation Service web site at:

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/intro3.html>.

If a permittee is approved for non-use, maintenance responsibilities would still continue for the assigned projects.

A working deferred maintenance list will be mailed to the permittees with the 2008 AOI for completion. A Working Deferred Maintenance list has been completed as a management tool addressing the following management objectives:

- Update/correct corporate data to produce accurate new maps
- Update/correct I-web data base reference numbers for future merge with Arc-GIS, NEPA
- Organize data by pasture addressing communication with permittees and managers
- Pasture attributes, (boundary and interior fences, dirt tanks, trick tanks, springs, cattleguards, and corrals) are organized according to type, condition, and prioritization maintenance needs
- Document maintenance responsibility
- Reference watering point condition
- Planning of maintenance with technical assistance from NRCS following an AMP
- Develop maintenance strategies with seasonal conditions

A. 2007 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Pinon /Wheatgrass fence needs to be repaired approximately 3 miles
- Tio Gordito/Red Mesa fence maintenance
- Pinon trick tank repair, completed in 2007
- Tree thinning project in Sawmill is contributing to decreased livestock distribution. Permittees are asking for management coordination so that livestock can have better distribution pattern--Low coordination resulted in 2007
- Permittees requested increased communication of USFS prescribed burn projects and thinning within the Tio Gordito allotment. They are especially concerned with projects that contribute to

decreasing grazable acres per pasture and require additional adjustments to rotation pattern—Some communication occurred about the maintenance of fence after spring wind storms.

B. 2008 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Pinon /Wheatgrass fence needs to be repaired approximately 3 miles
- Tio Gordito/Red Mesa fence maintenance
- Tree thinning project in Sawmill is contributing to decreased livestock distribution. Permittees are asking for management coordination so that livestock can have better distribution pattern.
- Permittees requested increased communication of USFS prescribed burn projects and thinning within the Tio Gordito allotment. They are especially concerned with projects that contribute to decreasing grazable acres per pasture and require additional adjustments to rotation pattern.

C. Travel Management Rule

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. The first travel management meeting for public input was held at the Tres Piedras District Office on July 11, 2006. A second meeting was held at the same location on March 21, 2007. Attendees provided comments to the USFS regarding roads or trails that should remain open or closed. Travel management was presented to permittees a 2008 AOI meeting, again requesting their input. A working deferred maintenance list will be mailed out with the 2008 AOI so that permittees can document access to range improvements to address travel management. Additional travel Management information can be found at the following wet site:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/index.shtml.

VIII. APPEAL RIGHTS

Range managers were informed in January 07 that if an allotment has current NEPA, then appeal language is not needed on the AOI. Allotments with current NEPA operate within the guidelines of the NEPA decision therefore; appeal language has been omitted from Tio Gordito 2008 AOI. The opportunity to appeal management was when the NEPA decision was made. If the allotment has a new permittee appeal rights still follow the NEPA decision.

BENJAMIN ROMERO
District Ranger

Date

Attachment: Appendix

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, spring, 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 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 material. 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 unreadable stock will be allowed.
4. Ear tags 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.