

**2007 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TRES OREJAS-637 AND SERVILLETA-633 ALLOTMENT
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES

The Tres Orejas and Servilleta Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on February 8, 2007 at Conejos Peak Ranger District office from 10:00-12:00. Meeting attendees were permittees, Leona and Leon Crowther and Forest Service representatives Wayne Yonemoto and Anna Dominguez.

The Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made part of the Term Grazing Permits for Servilleta and Tres Orejas. Carson Forest Annual Operating Instructions are posted on the Carson Forest Web site. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson>, Natural resources, Ranger District, Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions contain items that are guidance criteria addressing proper use of the Servilleta and Tres Orejas allotments listed below:

- Documents permitted, authorized and actual livestock management data
- Documents current years' objective per pasture so that it can be easily referenced
- References allotment inspection reports, monitoring studies, evaluation analysis worksheet, working deferred maintenance list, end of season report, and climate reports
- Documents end of season utilization and production/vigor

Permittees were advised to review terms and conditions stated on their permits. NEPA decision is scheduled to be completed in 2007 for Servilleta and Tres Orejas.

II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

A. Weather Report

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referred to during the 2007 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 monthly from the Western Regional Climate Center at www.wrcc.dri.edu. 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. For 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 2007.

1-month SPI through the end of January 2007 is -0.74 to 0.74 (near normal conditions)

12-month SPI through the end of January 2007 is -0.74 to 0.74 (near normal conditions)

Tres Piedras precipitation records are referenced supporting recommended Annual Authorized Use.

Allotment stocking should adjust with effective precipitation patterns. 2006 spring production was stunted due to spring drought conditions, summer rains allowed for cool season green up and good warm season production. 2007 spring and summer precipitation patterns will determine adaptive management actions with the objective to maintain/improve forage resources (proper use).

Weather conditions influence Forest fire occurrence and it is recommended that permittees have a fire contingency plan for livestock management. 2007 fire season is forecasted to be normal.

Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208
(505) 758-9505
(505) 758-6209

B. Summary of 2006 grazing season

2006 summary references allotment inspection reports, monitoring studies, evaluation analysis worksheet, working deferred maintenance list, end of season report, and climatic reports. Current years management objectives are developed based on 2006 information and 2007 forecasted weather conditions.

Servilleta and Tres Orejas permittees took voluntary non-use for the 2006 grazing season addressing resource protection due to spring drought conditions. Monsoons began in late June and allowed for forage production. End of season report documents forage growth and water availability in dirt tanks on the Servilleta allotment. Warm season forage produced seed heads while cool seasons grew but had low seed head formation. End of season report documents fluctuating conditions of range readiness due to weather conditions. It was discussed to consider use in the fall or when conditions and management allowed. Variation in season of use would complement deferred rotations. Tres Orejas was not accessible due to poor road conditions and was not reviewed at the end of 2007 grazing season. Adaptable management head month calculation will be used to calibrate timing in both allotments addressing proper use in the future.

The Ocular Estimated Method, Key Herbaceous Species, Form R3-220 was used to determine that 7/7 pastures in the Servilleta met the 20-40% standard of utilization at the end of the year. Tres Orejas allotment was not accessible due to poor road conditions and was not reviewed. Tres Orejas utilization is unknown but is estimated to be within the 20-40% utilization standard due to the limited water availability on the allotment. Forage use that does occur on both allotments is from elk, antelope, prairie dogs, trespass livestock, and excessive livestock.

The following are summarized objectives for 2007 grazing season.

Servilleta allotment: Moving sheep camps every 5-7-10 days depending on forage availability. Limited water sources throughout the allotment will require permittees to haul water for the authorized time of use. Camps around private tank and gravel pit tank should be managed closely and not exceed two weeks.

Tres Orejas: Moving sheep camps every 5-7-10 days depending on forage availability. Limited water sources throughout the allotment will require permittees to haul water for the authorized time of use. Maintain trick tanks to allow for future flexibility in authorized use of Tres Orejas.

C. 2007 Range Readiness

Inspection of 2007 range readiness meeting attendance is strongly recommended to review range conditions on 3/22/07 at the Tres Piedras District office. Evaluation of range readiness conditions will determine what adaptive management adjustments are needed addressing proper use of the allotments. On 3/22/07 a brief review of the range showed low production. Another inspection will be tentatively scheduled at a later date to review forage conditions and determine a rotation plan and annual authorized use request. On 4-13-07 a range readiness inspection was completed in Servilleta pasture A and D for forage requirements. Forage production meets requirements for entering allotment on 4-13-07. Leona Crowther was informed by telephone conversation on 4-13-07 to tentatively plan a rotation so that season of use could be billed. Season of use will be determined by accessibility to haul water and permittee management decisions.

D. 2007 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request

The livestock grazing fee for grazing year 2007 is \$1.35 c/c and \$.27 e/l on National Forests. The reduction in grazing fees is due to increase in the cost of production attributed to higher fuel prices, high loan rate, and equipment expenses, which offset slight increases in prices received, and forage values attributed to private grazing land leasing rates. 2007 unauthorized use of National Forest is \$4.10 for livestock and \$.82 for sheep and goats.

Permittees requested to complete the 2007 Annual Authorized Use Request form at a later date based upon current resource conditions. On 4-10-07 Leona Crowther requested non-use from 4/16 to 6/30, 75 days 672 e/l of the Tres Orejas allotment for resource protection and poor accessibility for hauling water.

She also requested to use the Servilleta allotment with 556 e/l instead of 274 c/c as soon as forage requirements are met since their lambing period is 90% complete. Permitted season for the Servilleta is 5/1-10/15 with 274 c/c, any other temporary authorization needs approval from District Ranger, Benjamin Romero.

On 4-16-07 Mrs. Leona Crowthers requested 1000 e/l to use the Servilleta. The Environmental Assessment for sheep on the term permit has not been completed at this time and the Forest Service will not authorize a number above 556 e/l from 5/1/07 to 6/15/07.

Servilleta will be temporarily authorized for 556 e/l from 5/1/07 to 6/15/07, 46 days (841 HM/252 AUM). A 45% reduction in HM or 80% reduction in AUM. Authorized area of use will be in pastures west of the Aguaje with estimated maximum days per pasture:

Pasture A, 20 days

Pasture D, 25 days

Pasture E, 10 days

Pasture F, 10 days

Total days=65 which is 20 more days than is authorized to allow for flexibility in rotation. If resource conditions and sheep management allow an additional bill will be generated if additional days are use.

2007 Annual Authorized use Form needs to be completed and submitted thirty days prior to authorize entry date for administrative requirements.

Table 1-Tres Orejas 2007 permitted/authorized /actual data

Tres Orejas Permittees, Permitted season 4/16-6/30 Permitted Number 672 e/l, 1679 HM, 504 AUM	2007 Authorized, non-use, resource protection and limited accessibility for hauling water	2007 Actual non-use, resource protection and limited accessibility for hauling water
Ed, Lonell, and Leon Crowther	Non-use	Non-use

Table 2-Servilleta 2007 permitted/authorized/actual data

Servilleta Permittees, Permitted season 5/1-10/15 Permitted Number, 274 c/c, 1513 HM, 1997 AUM	2007 Authorized season 5/1-6/15 with 556 e/l, 46 days (841 HM/252 AUM). 45% reduction in HM. 80% reduction in AUM.	2007 Actual
Ed, Lonell, and Leon Crowther	To be determined at RR March 22-low production. 4-13-07 forage production requirements met in pasture A and D.	

E. Tentative Rotation Schedule

Tentative 2007 rotation schedule was discussed. The following rotation plan is tentative due to existing range conditions and accessibility for hauling water. Rotation management emphasis for sheep is movement of camps every 5-7-10 days and hauling water. In the past sheep have been temporarily authorized in Servilleta allotment pasture 633A and 633D due to water source location and accessibility averaging 30 days with 500 e/l. Authorized season and rotation schedule is dependant on permittee management objectives in water hauling costs and timing of use of the Jawbone allotment.

Permittees were informed if they intended to bring cattle they would have to address fence maintenance prior to authorization. Also, since cattle have not been authorized for 5+ years

range reviews during the grazing season would have to be completed to calibrate rotation schedule per pasture. Permittees were informed in 2006 that trichomoniasis testing will be required by NM livestock inspectors.

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 2007 tentative rotation schedule if needed. The pastures currently have 5-7-10 day sheep camps objectives which are determined by forage availability and accessibility for hauling water. It is the responsibility of the grazing permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock addressing utilization standard of 40% of annual production.

A copy of the Grazing Permittee instructions for sheep and cattle operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District is an appendix to 2007 AOI.

Accessibility to different areas of the allotment is a limiting factor in management. Unpredictable heavy rains can erode or fill in gullied roads limiting accessibility for hauling water. Review of accessibility is recommended to permittees so that a tentative rotation plan and season of use can be determined. In the past 633A and 633D have been primarily used due to accessibility. Other areas of the allotment have production but accessibility and distance for hauling water limits use. Annual review of accessibility is required to determine rotation for water hauling purposes.

Table below organizes pastures into two areas with the Arroyo Aguaje de la Petaca being a topographical boundary. Pastures A, D, E, and F are west of the Aguaje. Pastures B, C, and G are east of the Aguaje.

Table 3-2007 Servilleta Pasture rotation highly dependent on accessibility for hauled water

Tentative rotation of pastures	Range of days Min-GOAL-Max 5-7-10 days per camp Camp movement is dependent on accessibility for hauling water	2007 Actual rotation and days	2007 Carson Forest Standard of Utilization at end of season
Pastures West of the Aguaje			
Dormillon-633A	5-7-10 days per watering point. 3-4 camps/watering points totaling 20 days. Movement of camps dependant on forage and water availability		
South West 633D	5-7-10 days per watering point. 3-5 camps/watering points totaling 25 days dependant on forage and water availability		
SW-633E	Estimated rotation due to non-use for 5+ years. 5-7-10 days per watering point. 2 camps/watering points totaling 10 days dependant on forage and water availability		

SW-633F	Estimated rotation due to non-use for 5+ years. 5-7-10 days per watering point. 2 camps/watering points totaling 10 days dependant on forage and water availability		
Pastures East of the Aguaje			
Taoses-633B	Estimated rotation due to non-use for 5+ years. 5-7-10 days per watering point. 2-3 camps totaling 15 days dependant on forage and water availability		
Taoses-633C	Estimated rotation due to non-use for 5+ years. 5-7-10 days per watering point. 2-3 camps totaling 10 days dependant on forage and water availability		
South East 633G	Estimated rotation due to non-use for 5+ years. 5-7-10 days per watering point. 2-3 camps totaling 15 days dependant on forage and water availability		

F. Monitoring references and Utilization standards

The following list describes priority monitoring data of the Servilleta and Tres Orejas allotment addressing proper use.

- Servilleta and Tres Orejas evaluation/analysis worksheet
- Elk utilization prior to livestock entry date-inspection reports, summarized on worksheet
- Fence conditions-deferred maintenance list
- SPI, weather forecast and water availability-weather record, deferred maintenance list
- Soil moisture depth and temperature-inspection reports
- Production cages, Parker, and permittee key areas, reviewed with methods listed on the Tres Piedras Monitoring Plan
- Key forage list per pasture-AOI obtained from 1970 blue line map
- Key areas reviewed if accessible-inspection reports
- Existing stubble heights on key species—Production/Vigor of key species per pasture at range readiness and end of season

Below is a table of key species with stubble height requirements for pasture entry. It is stressed that stubble height of key species and utilization are two different ecological concepts. Stubble height is related to:

- The effect of grazing on the physiological response of individual plant-vigor
- The effect of residual vegetation in protecting the soil from wind or water erosion

Utilization will be estimated with the USFS Ocular estimated method by class.

Table 4-Tres Orejas Key Species Requirements

No Pastures	Key Species requirements for entering allotment	Range Readiness 4/13/07	End of season 10/X/07	Estimated production/vigor
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8” Winter fat-annual production or seed formation	Not reviewed due to non-use		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8” Winter fat-annual production or seed formation	Not reviewed due to non-use		
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8” Winter fat-annual production or seed formation	Not reviewed due to non-use		

Table 5-Servilleta key species requirements

Pastures	Key Species requirements for entering allotment	Range readiness 4/13/07	End of season 10/X/07	Estimated production/vigor
	Pastures West of the Aguaje			
	Dormillon-633A			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	4-6” 4-6” dormant		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	4-6” 4-6” dormant		
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	4-6” 4-6” dormant		
	SouthWest-633D			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	6” 6” dormant		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	6” 6” dormant		

Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	6” 6” dormant		
	SW-633E			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
	SW-633F			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Pastures	Key Species requirements for entering allotment	Range readiness 4/13/07	End of season 10/X/07	Estimated production/vigor
	Pastures East of the Aguaje			
	Taoses-633B			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
	Taoses-633C			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
	South East 633-G			
Cage	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
Parker	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		

Permittee	Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”	Not inspected		
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Early elk utilization and drought conditions can stunt forage production effecting permitted grazing time and contribute to % utilization at the end of the season. Permittees are recommended to have a contingency plan due to early elk utilization. If elk have utilized the pasture prior to livestock entry and the remaining forage availability is low, other pasture entry and exits dates may be effected. Allotment evaluation analysis worksheet has been organized to document these above factors influencing production and vigor of forage. The evaluation analysis worksheet of quantitative/qualitative data is a reference for estimating if standard of utilization was met at the end of the growing season. Forest management objective is not to exceed 40% utilization 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 Servilleta and Tres Orejas are intermittent influencing the 4” standard stubble height. Updated maps are necessary to clearly identify riparian areas referencing soil type and existing species composition.

III. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Deferred maintenance assigned in your Term Grazing Permit requires annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to livestock entry. Livestock management emphasizes assigned maintenance for interior and boundary allotment fences to be maintained before livestock entry date.

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/section-4/std-specs.html>

When allotments are in non-use, permittees are responsible for maintenance of allotment improvements referred to in deferred maintenance list. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger.

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 process
- 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 source conditions, because they influence key areas and rotation
- Following an Annual Management Plan schedule assigned deferred maintenance with technical assistance from NRCS
- Develop maintenance strategies with seasonal conditions. For example, in dry seasons prioritizing critical dirt tanks that need to be cleaned out.

Below are the prioritized deferred maintenance projects.

A. 2006 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Repair of Tres Orejas trick tank has been carried over from 2005
- Responsible fence maintenance for Servilleta as required by Terms and conditions of permit
- 2005 objective clearance of corral location at gravel pit in Servilleta has been carried over to 2006. Completion of a CE-Categorical Exclusion in 2007 by USFS is a priority.

B. 2007 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Repair of Tres Orejas trick tank has been carried over from 2006
- Responsible fence maintenance for Servilleta as required by Terms and conditions of permit
- 2005 objective clearance of corral location at gravel pit in Servilleta has been carried over to 2007. Completion of a CE-Categorical Exclusion in 2007 by USFS is a priority.
- .5 mile of Tres Orejas allotment boundary fence construction was prioritized in fall of 2006 to be completed in 2007.

C. Travel Management Rule

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed. The travel management rule requires each Forest Service administrative unit or Ranger District to designate those roads trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. On November 2, 2005 the Forest Service announced final management regulations governing OHV's and other motor vehicle use on national forest and grasslands. On June 8, 2006, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth approved the agency's schedule for implementation of the travel management rule. The schedule will guide local efforts over the next four years to designate those roads trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be part of allotment planning in the future. More information is available on the Carson NF web page at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreatopm/travel_mgt/index.shtml.

A travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras on March 21, 2007 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Please provide comments to USFS regarding:

- Roads or motorized trail that you would like to see remain open as part of the designated system
- Roads or motorized trail that you would like to see closed
- Access routes you believe are necessary to access range improvements and description of how you have been accessing these improvements
- Roads or motorized trails you would like to see closed to the public but where you could retain adequate access for range operations and maintenance of you range-related facilities.

VIII. APPEAL RIGHTS

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. 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 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 the Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, New Mexico 87571, Within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Tres Piedras District Ranger, who was the deciding officer, and the address for mailing the appeal copy is Tres Piedras Ranger District, P.O. Box 38, Tres Piedras, New Mexico 87577.

Before you file a Notice of Appeal, I would ask that you contact me and then together we would try to resolve any disagreements. I value your experience and knowledge of the allotment and appreciate the opportunity to discuss your concerns. If we cannot reach an agreement, you would exercise your appeal rights. Our discussion would ensure that we both understand the reasons for each of our positions regarding any issues. I look forward to working with you this season. I am confident that we will work effectively together to manage the resources in a manner that reflects good stewardship of the land and cattle.

BENJAMIN ROMERO
District Ranger

Date

Attachment: Appendix

Appendix

Grazing Permittee Instructions for Sheep 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. Use the open herding system of handling sheep for better effect on the range and the sheep. The herder should hold the lead sheep instead of pushing the rear, and train the sheep to spread out and graze contentedly, instead of following the natural tendency of certain leaders in the band to move ahead too rapidly. Practice the open herding system of grazing in order to minimize the trailing and driving directly to and from water sources. Trailing and bunching the sheep should be avoided as much as possible. The herder would bed the sheep in a different location each night, except under exceptional circumstances, and never bed the sheep at camp (which is moved ever 7 days). Reusing the bed grounds contributes to the spread of disease and parasites. 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% and 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. Sheep 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.

Camp Operation

1. Move camps at least every 7 days. Locate camps to avoid contaminating water supplies. Remove trash and garbage. Leave the camp site clean and use good sanitation practices. Bury all human waste and locate latrines at least 100 feet from surface water.

The Herder

1. The herder will be expected to deal with unexpected emergencies and make day to day decisions. The herder should report conditions and observations that are vital to the sheep operation. The herder must know the allotment boundary and various property boundaries within the allotment in order to avoid unauthorized use or excess use. When applicable, information on adjoining bands of sheep and their routing/bedding will be shared with permittees and their herders.

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 livestock 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 you 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 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.

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 you 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 ill 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.