

**2006 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
CARSON MOJINO ALLOTMENT
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Carson Mojino Annual Operating Instructions meeting was held on Feb. 9, 2006 at the Tres Piedras Ranger District. Georgina, Pacomio Jr. and Jose Mondragon met with Wayne Yonemoto. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) is a decision and appeal document that is made part of the terms and condition 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 the strategic plan continues to be a high priority and emphasizes collaboration, rangeland health, rangeland monitoring and permittee involvement. The environmental assessment decision for grazing permit issuance is scheduled for 2006. The livestock grazing fee is \$1.56/HM (Cattle).

II. CLIMATE

The dry weather pattern condition includes the following. Within the Southwest, NOAA is forecasting increased chances of above normal temperatures through May, 2006, as well as, increased chances of below normal precipitation. The SPI definition indicating the end-of-drought is for the SPI values to be positive 1.0 (or higher) for the past 12 months and is described as *Moderately Wet*. (Jan., 2005 to Dec., 2005 is described as *Near Normal* (-0.74 to +0.74) so the end of drought has not occurred yet.)

III. 2005 MONITORING REPORT

Review of 2005 Monitoring data

Reviewed monitoring information in the Allotment Study file. Discussed areas of below average to average production and average to above average production, range condition and range trend. Utilization guidelines were met.

Review End of Growing Season Report

End of Season Monitoring Report was discussed and referenced.

IV. MONITORING

AOI Includes Reference To Following Monitoring Information:

1. Weather update (SPI and temperature)
2. Soil moisture depth
3. Water availability
4. Location of paired annual production/utilization cages with supporting photos and documentation
5. Key site map of the Allotment
6. Key forage list showing
 - a. Vegetation type
 - b. Species list
 - c. Stubble height
 1. Range readiness stubble ht./utilization guidelines

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

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.*

Monitoring Methods

Other monitoring methods that will 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.

V. AOI MANAGEMENT

Appendix Reference

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. 2005 Actual Use: Mojino pasture, 50 c/c 4/1 – 6/20; entering the south unit area, then moving to the middle unit area, then moving to the north unit area, then back to the middle area to exit; Carson pasture was in nonuse (resource protection).

Annual Authorized Use Request Form

Credits from previous year, if applicable, would apply to the current bill.

The final livestock numbers and entry date would be determined after range readiness inspections. Therefore, additional billing may be required after the first billing (that reflects the Annual Authorized Use Request form for 30 c/c, 4/15 – 6/20).

AOI Objectives

- 1) Livestock would enter either the North, Middle or South unit areas depending on range readiness assessment and determined entry date.
- 2) Unit areas would then be rotated by herding or placement of salt blocks, and by the availability of water sources.
- 3) Meet utilization guidelines described above.
- 4) Improve the pattern of utilization within the Middle and South unit areas.
- 5) Range improvement projects would be completed as described below.

Range Readiness

The range readiness inspection is scheduled for March 20, 2006.

VI. MAINTENANCE AND RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Term permit projects such as allotment boundary fences, unit boundary fences, cattleguards, stock tanks and other range improvement projects must be maintained prior to the permittee entering the allotment. In addition, when allotments are in non-use, the permittees are responsible for maintenance of the assigned projects.

a. Project Status

2005 new projects – Mojino - cattleguard at Highway 285 not funded; Carson/Tres Orejas fence 0.5 miles (FS materials) not constructed.

2006 maintenance projects – Boundary fence repairs.

2006 new projects- 1) Mojino - Corral construction South of Taos Junction 285 gate;

2) Carson/Tres Orejas fence 0.5 miles (FS materials); 3) Mojino - cattleguard at Highway 285.
Future desired projects – Carson - FS road maintenance; Aguaje gap trailway fence (2 miles); earthen stock tank (section 25, SW1/4); guzzler (southwest of Stover tank, section 24, northeast)

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.

ERNESTO HURTADO
District Ranger

Attachment: Appendix

**Appendix
Carson Mojino Allotment
2006**

Table 1-Permittee/Livestock Numbers

<i>Permittees/Livestock Numbers</i>			
	Permit Livestock Number/Period	Authorized Number/period.	Actual Use
Pacomio and Georgina Mondragon	723 e/l 12/16 - 5/31 759 e/l 6/1 - 6/12	30 c/c 4/15 – 6/20	

Table 2-Tentative Pasture/Period of Use

<i>Tentative Pastures/Period of Use</i>			
Pasture/Cattle	Dates Estimated (days)	Days Estimated	Actual Use
Mojino North	6/1 – 6/20 (20)	18 - (20) - 22	
Mojino Middle	4/30 – 5/31 (32)	27 - (32) - 37	
Mojino South	4/15 – 4/29 (15)	13 – (15) - 17	
Tres Orejas	Nonuse		

Management Concerns/Issues

1. Carson Pasture – Road maintenance required to haul water; Fence boundary for cattle use; develop water sources; excess livestock use from TCLP through the Aguaje (requiring gap trailway fence).
2. Mojino Pasture – Improve distribution by: salting, herding, interior fence construction, developing water sources.