

**2004 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TRES OREJAS & SERVILLETA ALLOTMENT 632
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The Tres Orejas & Servilleta Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on February 19, 2004 at Conejos Peak Ranger District. Leona and Leon Crowther were present. Forest Service representatives were Wayne Yonemoto, Anna Dominguez, Luciano Sandoval, and Keith Rush. An agenda was issued at the meeting.

II. OBJECTIVES

The Annual Operating Instructions are decision documents and are made part of the Term Grazing Permit. The following items are guidance criteria addressing proper use of the Servilleta and Tres Orejas allotments.

III. WEATHER REPORT

It was discussed that the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) is a way of measuring drought and is negative for drought and positive for wet conditions. The SPI is a probability index that only considers precipitation. To be considered out of the drought the SPI has to be near normal conditions for 12 consecutive months. The following are the current and 12 month SPI from February 2004.

1-month SPI through the end of February 2004 is +1.25 to +1.99 near normal
12-month SPI through the end of February 2004 is -1.24 to -0.75 moderately dry

It was discussed that allotment stocking should adjust with prevailing drought conditions.

A. Fire

Forest Service reported that much of the interior West is expected to experience above normal fire potential during 2004. The Southwest is the driest area of the West and fire season is expected to start early and has the potential to be comparable to 2002. The combination of hot-dry June and long-term drought could mitigate the benefits from a wet winter and spring.

Report any wildfires to:

Tres Piedras Ranger District	505-758-8678
Taos Zone dispatch	505-758-6208
	505-758-6209
	505-758-6352

IV. 2003 REPORT CARD

A. Review of 2003 Production/Utilization data

2003 Production/Utilization documentation was reviewed. Conditions had improved from 2002.

B. Review of 2003 Inspection Reports

Allotment inspection reports were reviewed. Review of the 2003 reports are used to make management adjustments for the 2004 grazing season.

V. 2004 AOI CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

A. AOI Modifications

The 2004 Authorized Use information will be summarized to reflect: Permitted numbers/season, Authorized numbers/season, Actual numbers/season, and rotation schedule. This documentation will be an appendix to the 2004 AOI since it is updated at the end of the grazing season.

B. 2004 Annual Authorized Use Request

The Servilleta Tres Orejas Permittees voluntarily rested their allotments for 2002 and 2003 grazing season for resource protection. A temporary permit will be issued for change in season and numbers for Servilleta. 2004 tentative plan is and to run a base herd of 800 e/l from 5/1-6/16. The Crowthers then intend to utilize the Jawbone allotment from 6/17-7/10 again making reduction adjustments in time and numbers therefore needing another Temporary permit which will be addressed after the Range Readiness field meeting. Jawbone Range Readiness meeting becomes critical to attend. The Jawbone Range Readiness meeting has been scheduled for 6/11/04 at the Tres Piedras Ranger District Office at 9:00 am.

The Servilleta Tres Orejas permittees completed the 2004 Annual Authorized Use Request forms agreeing to adjustments in base herd numbers and time.

C. 2004 Grazing fee

The livestock-grazing fee for FY 2004 is \$1.43 per c/c AUM on the National Forests, an increase of eight cents from last year. The fee for sheep and goats is 29 cents on National Forests. The fee increases are due to the increase in the forage value index (FVI), beef cattle price index (BCPI) and the 2003 prices paid index (PPI).

Unauthorized use on the National Forests is \$4.41 per AUM for livestock and 88 cents for sheep and goats.

D. Tentative Rotation Schedule

The permittees discussed tentative 2004 rotation schedule. It was discussed that copies aerial photos will be issued to permittees to document the camp moves. Permittees asked the Range staff to keep them informed of the water and forage conditions throughout the spring.

VI. MONITORING

A. 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan

It was discussed that the 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest that was issued a the 2003 AOI will be referred to for the 2004 grazing season. The plan stresses communication, monitoring, range administration and permittee involvement.

B. Range Readiness Field Meeting

Range readiness field meeting is tentatively scheduled for 4/04. A meeting will be set up at a later date to complement the permittees schedule.

C. Utilization standards

The importance of utilization standards was briefly discussed. Bottomlands and uplands are not to exceed 40% of the annual available forage. Utilization standards in the riparian area (green zones) will be 4" stubble height of the annual available forage. Once either one of these standards is achieved, livestock will be moved to the next pasture on the rotation schedule.

D. Other Monitoring methods

- Monitoring information will contain the following:
- Weather updates Standard Precipitation Index (SPI)
- Soil moisture depth
- Water availability
- Production/utilization cages
- Key site map of the Allotment/ Key forage list

E. NEPA schedule

NEPA is tentative scheduled for completion in 2006.

VII. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The entire cost of improvements and maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, unit boundary fences, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittee going on the allotment. When allotments are in non-use the permittees are still responsible for maintenance.

A. Project Status

1990 Permittee Proposal: Corral

1990 Permittee Proposal: Water distribution

2003 USFS Proposal: Repair of Tres Orejas Trick Tank

B. Operation costs

No operational costs were submitted to the USFS.

VIII. PERMITTEE MANAGEMENT CONCERS

A. Elk Population

Permittees were informed of the NMGF/USFS meeting to be held March 4, 2004 to discuss management.

IX. 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 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 Forest 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.

I would appreciate the opportunity to try to resolve disagreements with you. Therefore, please contact me before you file a notice of appeal. I value your experience and knowledge of the allotment. If we cannot reach an agreement, you may exercise your appeal rights. This will insure that we both understand the reasons for each others position regarding any issues. I look forward to working with you this season. I am confident that together we will work effectively to manage the range resources in a manner that reflects good stewardship for the land and livestock alike.

ERNESTO HURTADO
District Forest Ranger

**2004 TRES OREJAS- SERVILLETA
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
APPENDIX**

Servilleta Permittees

Crowthers

Permitted class date/#

274 c/c 5/1-10/15

500 e/1 5/1-7/1

Authorized date/#

non-use

800 e/1, 5/1-6/16

Actual date/#

Rotation Schedule

X camps/ X days

Min---goal—Max Days

Actual days

Tres Orejas Permittees

Crowthers

Permitted class date/#

672 e/1, 4/16-6/30

Authorized date/#

non-use

Actual date/#

Rotation Schedule

X camps/ X days

Min-----goal-----Max Days