

**2007 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

CABRESTO #320

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

JICARILLA RANGER DISTRICT

**File Code:** 2230  
**Date:** June 5, 2007

### **Annual Operating Instructions 2007**

Dear Permittee,

This letter details your 2007 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Cabresto grazing allotment as discussed in your April meeting at the district office.

#### **A. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS & SEASON OF USE:**

The following numbers and classes of livestock will be permitted to graze the Cabresto allotment this year.

**Table 1 Livestock numbers and season of use.**

<b><u>Allotment</u></b>	<b><u>Permitted #'s</u></b>	<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Season</u></b>	<b><u>Authorized #'s</u></b>
Cabresto	87	Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/31	45

#### **B. GRAZING SYSTEM:** Grazing Schedule and Pasture Sequence:

**Table 2 Grazing schedule and pasture sequence.**

<b><u>Pastures</u></b>	<b><u>Season</u></b>	<b><u>Livestock #s</u></b>
Laguna Seca	06/01 – 06/30	45
Cabresto	07/01 – 08/31	45
La Fragua	09/01 – 10/15	45
Lopez	10/15 – 10/31	45

Distribute cattle to the extent water and forage availability will allow. To attain the prescribed minimum average leaf lengths at the end of the season, it will be necessary to maintain good livestock distribution throughout the season.

#### **C. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE:**

The following will be completed this grazing season:

Continue with routine maintenance on existing improvements as assigned in permit. All assigned range improvements must be maintained even during periods of non-use. Insure that any pieces of old plastic pipe, old fence wire, or any discarded materials involved in range improvement maintenance be cleaned up and removed from Forest lands.

Any range improvement maintenance that involves physical ground disturbance must have prior approval from the District Ranger. Please contact the district office with any questions

you may have regarding this issue.

**D. SALTING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING:**

Salt and supplemental feed will be used as a range management tool to draw livestock into areas of little or no use. This normally does not include areas adjacent to water or canyon bottoms. Salt should be checked and moved periodically to avoid potential overuse.

**E. PROTECTION:**

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land, and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of extreme fire danger, branding fires will be prohibited or else be allowed by permit only.

All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only with prior approval of the District Ranger.

**F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS:**

**MONITORING**

Grazing intensity is a critical factor in managing the Cabresto and Vaqueros allotments. Forest Service personnel will be using a variety of accepted methods to monitoring key grazing areas. Permittees are invited and encouraged to participate in monitoring visits.

Key forage species have been identified for the Cabresto and Vaqueros allotments. A maximum forage use level of 30% has been set for the Cabresto allotment. A maximum forage use level of 30-40% has been set for the Vaqueros allotment. Maintenance of the appropriate minimum average leaf lengths on key species will result in conservative use levels.

**Table 3 Monitoring location, key species, and stubble height.**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>KEY SPECIES</b>	<b>STUBBLE HT.</b>
All Key Areas	Western Wheat	4 - 5 in.
	Blue Grama	2 - 2.5 in.
	Galleta	3 - 4 in.
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 - 5.5 in.

**G. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANNING:**

The drought conditions we have experienced in the past few years have lessened considerably over the 2006 summer and winter months. Forage production across the district is improved over what it has been in recent years. Even with the considerable moisture we received this past summer and fall, we are not sure what the 2007 grazing year will bring. We can only speculate at this point whether the improved moisture patterns we had in the summer of 2006, will continue into 2007. Please ensure that you have a contingency plan for management of your livestock if drought conditions return this summer. If conditions warrant, we will need to work closely together to amend your annual operating instructions in order to meet rangeland resource objectives.

Our mutual goal should be to protect the long-term productivity of the range resource while considering the needs of your livestock operation. I strongly encourage you to closely monitor forage use levels using the guidelines in the Special Management Concerns described above. It is important that we communicate effectively to address proper grazing management and avoid emergency situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Cabresto allotment for the 2007 grazing season, please contact Anthony Madrid at (505) 632-2956.

Sincerely,

MARK S. CATRON  
Jicarilla District Ranger