

2006 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

VALENCIA ALLOTMENT #350/ LAGUNA SECA ALLOTMENT #340

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

JICARILLA RANGER DISTRICT

/s/ Mark Catron

06/02/06

District Forest Ranger

Date

INTRODUCTION

For the 2006 Grazing year the Valencia and Laguna Seca Allotments will be combined to give more flexibility in managing livestock, making use of available water, and reducing grazing use in key areas. Currently conditions are very dry on the Forest. Available water is limited on both Allotments.

In 2005 the Laguna Seca and Valencia Allotments were combined. At the end of the 2005 grazing season, grazing use in key areas on the Laguna Seca Allotment met the grazing use standards in the Compressor (Valdez), and Campo (Laguna Seca) pastures. Concerns with grazing use are being dealt with in 2006 by combining both Laguna Seca and the Valencia Allotments. Grazing use in key areas on the Valencia Allotment in the Jaramillo and Companero pastures were within the grazing standards in 2005. Combining Allotments will help the Valencia Allotment by limiting use of the Companero pasture where livestock tend to gravitate throughout the grazing season from the Chosa, Cottonwood and BS pastures on the Valencia Allotment.

If dry conditions persist it may be necessary to distribute livestock over both allotments to avoid over use of the range resource.

Planned Grazing Use for 2006

Table 1 - Authorization

1.AUTHORIZATION			
Permittee/Assoc	Permitted	Season	Comments
Candaleria Ass.	77	06/01 – 10/31	Permitted Number and Season of Use.
Laguna Seca Ass.	158	05/29 – 10/31	Permitted Number and Season of Use.
Candaleria Ass. Laguna Seca Ass.	Total 235	Grazing use will fall within 06/01 – 10/31 period, based on grazing utilization.	Planned – Authorized Use 2005

Table 2 - Rotation Schedule

ROTATION SCHEDULE VALENCIA		
Pasture name	Season of Use	Planned # Days
Grazing for the Valencia Allotment will be determined prior to 08/10 and will be based on current precipitation and forage situation.		

Table 3

ROTATION SCHEDULE LAGUNA SECA		
Pasture name	Season of Use	Planned # Days
Laguna Seca (Valdez) & Compressor (Campo)	06/11 – 08/10 214 head	60
La Jara	06/11 – 09/10 21 head	90

Grazing use beyond 08/10 will be based on current forage conditions and precipitation patterns.

1. FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Grazing use is a critical factor in managing the Valencia/Laguna Seca Allotments. We will be using a variety of methods which could include paired cages, photo points, and ocular estimates of grazing use. The focus will be on monitoring key grazing areas for grazing use.

Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Within the Valencia/Laguna Seca Allotments the key forage grasses will include the following species. Stubble height should be kept as a minimum at the following described heights to keep the plants reproducing and in good vigor. Forage utilization levels in key areas should not exceed 40%.

Table 4- Location, Key grass species, stubble HT.

LOCATION	KEY GRASS SPECIES	STUBBLE HT.
All Units	Western Wheat	4 - 5 in.
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5 in.
	Galleta	3 - 4 in.
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 5.5 in.

MONITORING

Monitoring will be completed during the grazing season and at the end of the season. The permittee will be contacted and invited to participate in grazing use assessments.

OTHER

Utilize salt to help spread livestock over each pasture. Do not locate salt within ¼ mile of water sources.

The area around Gasbuggy has been reseeded. The Forest Service has placed an electric fence around the revegetation area. Please do not salt adjacent to the revegetated area.

2. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

We discussed several range improvements for the allotment for 2006.

Chosa Lake – Construction is complete as of 06/01.

Laguna Seca Water Well – This project is currently ongoing.

3. ALLOTMENT NEPA STATUS

The Valencia and Laguna Seca Allotments are planned for environmental assessments in 2007.

4. APPEAL STATEMENT

This Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit

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 the 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 the Jicarilla District Forest Ranger, who was the deciding officer and the address for mailing the appeal copy is 664 E. Broadway, Bloomfield, NM 87413