

2004 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

AMENDMENT #1

VALENCIA ALLOTMENT #350

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

JICARILLA RANGER DISTRICT

/s/ Mark Catron

6/16/04

District Forest Ranger

Date

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Montoya moved cattle onto the allotment 9 days early without authorization. The grazing for the Valencia allotment was shortened 9 days. The unauthorized use was dealt with administratively.

On June 10th Mr. Montoya contacted Stan Dykes and discussed his interest in opening the gates into the Cottonwood pasture from the BS part of the Jaramillo pasture. There is no water in the Cottonwood pasture at the present time. Opening the gates will allow some use of the pasture. Further changes to the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) will be needed if the Cottonwood pasture can only be grazed from the water available at the BS well.

The following amendment reflects these changes.

Planned Grazing Use for 2004

Table 1 - Authorization

1.AUTHORIZATION			
Permittee/Assoc	Permitted	Season	Comments
Candelaria Association.	92	06/01 – 10/31	Permitted Number and Season of Use.
Candelaria Association.	80	06/01 – 10/31	Planned – Authorized Use 2004

Table 2 - Rotation Schedule

ROTATION SCHEDULE			
Pasture name	Season of Use		Planned # Days
Jaramillo	05/22 – 06/30	80 cows	39
Cottonwood	06/23 - 07/21	80 cows	30
Chosa	07/22 – 09/21	80 cows	61
Companero	09/22 - 10/22	80 cows	31

1. FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Grazing use is a critical factor in managing the Valencia allotment. We will be using a variety of methods including paired cages, photo points, and ocular estimates of grazing use. The focus will be 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 allotment 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.

Table 3- 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.

1. MONITORING

The end of grazing season monitoring showed that each pasture on the Allotment was in compliance with grazing standards.

2. Range Improvements

Mr. Montoya utilized all the pipe available for the Ahogadero section of the Ceruelas Pipeline. Stan Dykes will inspect the portion that was completed in the next 30 days. The pipeline is currently working.

Improvement maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. All assigned allotment boundary fences, interior pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, and other structural improvements must be maintained even during periods of non-use.

1. Allotment NEPA status

The Valencia allotment will have an environmental assessment completed in 2006.

2. 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