

**2004 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**CARRACAS ALLOTMENT #02-366**

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST**

**JICARILLA RANGER DISTRICT**

/s/ Mark Catron

03/04/04

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District Forest Ranger

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Date

## INTRODUCTION

On February 26, 2004 I (Stan Dykes, Range Staff) spoke with Mr. Martinez. Mr. Martinez let me know he would be taking non-use this year for resource protection.

We are still working on the Environmental Assessment for gathering horses on the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory. A decision should be made by the Forest Supervisor in the next 60 days and we expect to be gathering either late summer or fall.

Table 1 - Authorization

<b>1. AUTHORIZATION</b>					
<b>Permittee/Assoc</b>	<b>Permitted</b>	<b>Permitted</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Joe & Demetrio Martinez	8	05/16 - 10/15	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total Non-Use For Resource Protection</b>

Table 2 - Rotation Schedule

<b>2. ROTATION SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Pasture name</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>	<b>Planned # Days</b>
N/A		

## 1. FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Grazing use is a critical factor in managing the Carracas Allotment. Even though the allotment will be in non-use we will continue to monitor grazing utilization from horses. We will be using a variety of methods including paired cages, photo points, and ocular estimates of 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 Carracas 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.

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

## **1. MONITORING**

Range transects were read on the allotment in September and October of 2003. The transects showed the range was in poor condition. End of grazing season monitoring will be conducted within the next 30 days. You will be contacted to participate in the range inspection.

## **2. Range Improvements**

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.

## **3. Allotment NEPA status**

The Carracas allotment is currently undergoing Environmental Analysis. We will keep you informed as the process continues.

## **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