



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern Region 3  
Carson National Forest  
El Rito Ranger District

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**2009**  
**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**(AOIS)**

**SAN GABRIEL ALLOTMENT # 00204**

**BOX M RANCH, LLC**  
**P.O. BOX 8**  
**EL RITO, NM 87530**

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST**  
**EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

*/s/ Diana M. Trujillo*

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District Ranger

5/13/2009

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Date

# ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI'S)

## INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael and Diana Trujillo on February 18, 2009 and are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit. The authorized eartag color is "orange". The authorized use for the 2009 Grazing Season on the San Gabriel Allotment is as follows:

**Table 1 – Permittee Information and Season of Use**

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag #	Remarks Includes a reduction in numbers
	#	Season	#	Season		
Box M Ranch, LLC	100 c/c	6/01 – 10/15	81	6/01-10/15	1 - 100	

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the San Gabriel Allotment. The El Rito Range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

Nonuse applies only to animal numbers. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (Total Nonuse), or part of the permitted numbers (Partial Nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee elects to request “total nonuse” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements. Non-use may be recorded as resource protection for the 2009 grazing season pending approval.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

Season dates are dependant on range readiness inspections. Dates for range readiness inspections have been scheduled for May 21, 2009. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the San Gabriel Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five-day grace period will be allowed for removal of stray(s) permitted cattle from the allotment.

If a permittee elects to request “total nonuse” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

## **ROTATION SCHEDULE**

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness).

**Table 2 – Rotation Schedule**

Holding Pasture	6/01 – 6/07
CCC Pasture	6/08 – 7/23
Gurule Pasture	7/24 – 9/07
Middle Pasture	9/08 – 10/23
Holding Pasture	10/24 – 10/31

## **FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS**

Forage utilization will be measured in predetermined key areas. We will need your assistance for locating and setting up these key areas. The Forest Service will contact the permittee later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the San Gabriel Allotment. Monitoring will be conducted using Vegetative Utilization Monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Utilization guidelines for the San Gabriel allotment are light to moderate or 20 % to 40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured at the end of the growing season in the key areas.

Riparian stubble heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. When riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

## **MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2008**

**Table 3 – Monitoring Results**

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
CCC	Kentucky Bluegrass	40%	69%
CCC	Arizona Fescue	40%	56%
Middle	Kentucky Bluegrass	40%	62%
Middle	Arizona Fescue	40%	58%

At the end of the 2008 grazing season utilization was exceeded in key grazing areas on all four species that were monitored in the three pastures. Over-utilization recorded is likely a result of monitoring being conducted in mid-November rather than at the conclusion of the grazing season. A key grazing area is a portion of rangeland selected because of its location, grazing or browsing value, or use to serve as a monitoring and evaluation point for range condition, trend, or degree of grazing use. Key areas reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the rangeland and guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part. The intent of monitoring in key grazing areas is to maintain good to excellent range conditions in key areas while accommodating the needs of wildlife. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to achieve a light to moderate grazing intensity of 20-40% by weight of annual available forage in key grazing areas. It will be important in the 2009 grazing season monitoring be conducted on schedule and that the cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent over grazing in these key areas. See Monitoring section below for scheduled monitoring dates.

### **MONITORING**

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Permittees are encouraged and invited to participate in these inspections. Monitoring will be held on July 8, August 13, and "End of Season" monitoring on October 13, 2009. Once allowable use is achieved, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture. Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is encouraged.

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization guidelines.

If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated.

Regular herding and riding practices are the key to achieving proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the fullest use of the grazing season. Salt must be placed out of bottoms, away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

### **IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

The following projects have been scheduled for the 2009 grazing season:

- Up on the Hill Spring

All range improvements assigned in the Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a good functioning condition before livestock are placed on the allotment. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify the range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining your fences on your allotment, you can get authorization to cut these materials by obtaining a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

The San Gabriel Allotment is recognized as suitable Mexican spotted owl habitat. However, no known sightings have been identified on the allotment.

Direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOIs.

The Standards and Guidelines identified in the Carson National Forest Plan that relate to the management of this allotment will be incorporated into the updated plan. It is very important that you understand these Standards and Guidelines since they form the basis for the management of this allotment.

### **Communication**

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. We will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

**ACTUAL USE INFORMATION  
SAN GABRIEL ALLOTMENT  
2009 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on Off	Date	Date on	Date Off	
<b>Holding Pasture</b>		<b>6/1</b>	<b>6/7</b>			
<b>CCC Pasture</b>		<b>6/8</b>	<b>7/23</b>			
<b>Gurule Pasture</b>		<b>7/24</b>	<b>9/7</b>			
<b>Middle Pasture</b>		<b>9/8</b>	<b>10/23</b>			
<b>Holding Pasture</b>		<b>10/24</b>	<b>10/31</b>			

Number of Head counted on:

Number of head

lost: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Table 4**

<b>Livestock Class</b>	<b>Poisonous Plants</b>	<b>Predators</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total Losses</b>

Additional Comments:

**UTILIZATION INFORMATION  
SAN GABRIEL ALLOTMENT  
2009 GRAZING SEASON**

**Attachment 2**

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Head Months (HMs)</b>	<b>Animal Unit Months</b>	<b>Allowable Utilization (percent)</b>	<b>Date Monitored</b>	<b>Observed Utilization</b>
<b>Holding Pasture</b>					
<b>Gurule Pasture</b>					
<b>CCC Pasture</b>					
<b>Middle Pasture</b>					

