



2009 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIS)

JARITA MESA ALLOTMENT # 00202

Jarita Mesa Livestock Grazing Association	Griego Ranch c/o Thomas L., David & Donald Griego
Gabriel J. Aldaz	Joe Gurule Jr.
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	Diego R. Jaramillo
Jeffrey D. Chacon	Lorenzo A. Jaramillo
Sebedeo R. Chacon	Horacio D., Ronald H., & Martin K. Martinez
Timoteo, Candelaria & Isaac Chacon	Leonard Torrez or Leonard Torrez, Jr.
Celina & Joseph D. Gallegos	Elive Valdez
Isaac & Juan Giron	Jerry, Floyd & Ernesto Valdez
Arthur and Isabel Rodarte	Pena Ranch c/o Bertram I., Henry A., Michael T., & Harold E. Pena

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT

/s/ Diana M. Trujillo

District Ranger, El Rito

4/13/2009

Date

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI'S)

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions (AOI's) are in reference to the annual meeting you had with Diana Trujillo, Craig Newman, and Ezequiel Rael on March, 2009.

Table 1 List of Permitted/Authorized

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized *		Remarks
	#	Season	#	Season	
Jarita Mesa Livestock Grazing Association	16 bulls	5/1 – 10/31	16 bulls	5/1 – 10/31	
Gabriel J. Aldaz	7 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	7 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	53 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	30 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Jeffrey D. Chacon	8 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	8 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Sebedeo R. Chacon	126 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	100 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	<i>Permittee originally requested to run 126 c/c. Permittee notified El Rito staff he would only run 100 c/c post billing. Credit/Refund will be due.</i>
Timoteo, Candelaria & Isaac Chacon	10 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	0 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Celina or Joseph D. Gallegos	5 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	5 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Isaac & Juan Giron	30 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	30 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Joe Gurule Jr.	3 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	3 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Griego Ranch c/o David, Donald & Thomas L. Griego	69 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	69 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Diego R. Jaramillo	26 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	26 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Lorenzo A. Jaramillo	40 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	40 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Horacio D., Ronald H., & Martin K. Martinez	11 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	11 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Pena Ranch c/o Bertram, Henry, Michael & Harold Pena	40 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	40 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Rodarte, Arthur & Isabel	28 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	28 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Max Jr. & Stella Torrez	5 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	0 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Elive Valdez	30 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	25 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
Jerry, Ernesto or Floyd Valdez	11 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	11 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	
TOTAL	518 Head	5/1 – 10/31	449	5/1 – 10/31	

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. Dates for range readiness inspections has been scheduled for April 23, 2009.

All permittees must be in good standing with the Association and in compliance with the permit in order to let cattle onto Forest Service property.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Jarita Mesa 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.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

Distribution of livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness):

Table 2 – Pasture Rotation

Maton De Encino Pasture		05/01 – 06/01
Comanche/La Tetilla		05/01 – 06/30
Jarita Pasture		06/01 – 07/15
Kiowa Pasture		7/15 – 10/31

The routing schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when unforeseen circumstances, such as lack of water or overuse occur within the pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above routing schedule in coordination with this office. A written justification should be submitted by the permittee to this office before a proposal to change the above routing schedule will be acted upon by the District Ranger. The decision made by the District Ranger will be based upon the condition of the range, recommendations of the range staff, and the needs of the permittees. Recommendations of the New Mexico Range Improvement Task Force and Cooperative Extension Service at New Mexico State University are encouraged and will be considered by the District Ranger in making such a determination.

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is mandatory. A five-day grace period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the pasture/allotment.

FORAGE UTILIZATION

Forage utilization will be measured in established key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Jarita Mesa Allotment. 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 Jarita Mesa allotment are light to moderate or 20-40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured at the end of the season in key areas.

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

Within the Jarita Mesa Allotment the key forage species are:

Table 3 – Forage Utilization Guidelines

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Maton de Encino, Comanche & La Tetilla Pastures	Western Wheat	4 – 6”
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5”
	Black Grama	4 – 6”
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 6”
Jarita Pasture	Arizona Fescue	6 – 8”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 6”
	Mt. Muhly	4 – 6”
Kiowa Pasture	AZ/Thurber Fescue	6 – 8”
	Kentucky Bluegrass	4 – 6”
	Oat Grasses	8 – 10”
Riparian Areas	Mt. Muhly	4 – 6”
	Red Top	4 – 6”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 6”
	Sedges	4 – 6”

2008 END OF SEASON MONITORING

Table 4 End of Season Monitoring

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Kiowa	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	43%
Kiowa	Pine Dropseed	20-40%	45%
Jarita	Blue Grama	20-40%	38%
Jarita	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	50%
Maton De Encino	Blue Grama	20-40%	52%
Maton De Encino	Carex	20-40%	55%
Jarita	Blue Grama	20-40%	56%
Jarita	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	57%
Comanche	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	8%
Comanche	Blue Grama	20-40%	40%

Distribution of livestock needs to improve on the allotment as some areas of the allotment are receiving excessive use. At the end of the 2008 grazing season utilization was exceeded in key grazing areas on seven of ten species that were monitored in the four pastures. Excessive use, the need for improved distribution, and a reluctance to voluntarily reduce stocking levels to address resource conditions has been an ongoing issue on the allotment. Reluctance to voluntarily reduce authorized numbers seem to be primarily due to concerns that voluntary reductions could lead to permanent reductions in permitted numbers. Excessive utilization can also be attributed to the wild horse population on the allotment. In the last 10 years, a total of 129 wild horses have been removed from the allotment and adopted out. The population is currently estimated to be within appropriate management level. 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 that cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent over grazing in these key areas. Proper fence maintenance, salt dispersal, range riding and monitoring by the permittees can change the numbers for the better. Adjustments in authorized livestock and season of use could result if distribution and management of livestock results in excessive utilization.

MONITORING

Monitoring will be conducted using a combination of monitoring techniques including, but not limited to, paired cages, photo points, Rapid Assessment Method, and permittee monitoring. Permittees and the Range Improvement Task Force are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service Range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made. Dates for range readiness inspections have been set for April 23, 2009. Other monitoring dates are tentatively scheduled for June 10, 2009, July 15, 2009, and August 27, 2009 with others to follow. We will be meeting at the El Rito Ranger District Office at 9:30 on each of the dates scheduled. Monitoring dates are subject to changes due to weather, fire danger, or unforeseen circumstances. Please contact Ezequiel Rael with any questions regarding monitoring. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization standards. 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.

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.

Distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will also be evaluated.

Distribution is the key to achieving proper livestock management on the allotment and to providing 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 project has been approved for completion:

60' x 60' corral in Cañon Plaza (Pending funding)

FENCE MAINTENANCE

All assigned fences and water developments must be maintained and determined to be in good functioning condition prior to the entry date. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate. Permittees failing to fulfill maintenance responsibilities will result in cattle not being authorized to enter the allotment.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts for fence maintenance you may obtain a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

At the present time direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOIs.

According to the Carson Forest Plan implementation schedule, an Allotment Management Plan update, developed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, has been started this year (2009).

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

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 Kendall Clark, 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 Diana Trujillo, District Forest Ranger, who was the deciding officer and the address for mailing the appeal copy is P. O. Box 56, El Rito, New Mexico 87530.

I would appreciate if you contact me and together we can try to resolve disagreements before you file any Notice of Appeal. I value your experience and knowledge of the allotment. If we cannot reach an agreement, you may exercise your appeal rights. This will insure that we both understand the reasons for each other's position regarding any issues. I look forward to working with you this season. I am confident that together we will work effectively to manage the range resources in a manner that reflects good stewardship for the land and cattle alike.

ATTACHMENT 1

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION

JARITA MESA ALLOTMENT

2009 GRAZING SEASON

Actual Use Table 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on Off	Date	Date on Off	Date	
Maton de Encino		5/1	5/31			
Comanche/La Tetilla		5/1	6/30			
Jarita		6/1	7/15			
Kiowa		7/15	10/31			

Number of Head counted on _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Actual Use Table 2

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

Additional Comments:

ATTACHMENT 2

UTILIZATION INFORMATION

JARITA MESA ALLOTMENT

2009 GRAZING SEASON

Utilization Table 1

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
Maton de Encino					
Comanche/La Tetilla					
Jarita					
Kiowa					

