



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 (AOI)

COMANCHE ALLOTMENT # 00203

ARTURO VALDEZ
P.O. Box 794
TRES PIEDRAS, NM 87577

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

/s/ Diana M. Trujillo

District Ranger

4/16/2009

Date

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

This AOI is in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael and Diana Trujillo on January 22, 2009. The authorized use for the 2009 Grazing Season on the Comanche Allotment is as follows:

AUTHORIZATION

Table 1 –Permittee Information and Season of Use

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Markings	Remarks Includes a reduction in numbers
	#	Season	#	Season		
Arturo Valdez	720 e/l	4/16 – 5/30 11/1 – 12/31				<i>Permittee is taking "Non-use" for the 2009 grazing season.</i>

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Comanche 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

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

Table 2 – Pasture Rotation Schedule

Lower Comanche Pasture	<i>Non-use</i>	4/16 – 5/07
Upper Comanche Pasture	<i>Non-use</i>	5/08 – 5/30
Upper Comanche Pasture	<i>Non-use</i>	11/01 - 11/30
Lower Comanche Pasture	<i>Non-use</i>	12/01 - 12/31

FORAGE UTILIZATION

Although permittee is taking non-use for the 2009 grazing season, forage utilization will continue to be measured in key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Comanche Allotment. 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 are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service Range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

The following are the Comanche Allotments key forage species:

Table 3- Forage Utilization Guidelines

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Lower/Upper Pasture	Western Wheat	4 – 6”
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5”
	Black Grama	4 – 5”
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 6”

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

The following projects were discussed for the Comanche Allotment in the future:

- Permittee would like Forest Service to look into brush hogging of some areas within the allotment. Range personnel will look at some areas with permittee this spring.
- Permittee would like Forest Service to continue to look for funding for three guzzlers in the future.
- Permittee would like to see if Forest Service can finish earthen tank that was started in 2002.
- Additional water developments were discussed if future livestock class is converted from sheep to cattle.
- Additional fence developments were discussed if future livestock class is converted from sheep to cattle.

Even though you are taking non-use, it is important that you inspect and maintain the assigned fences in a good functioning condition. 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.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

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

An Allotment Management Plan update, developed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, has begun in 2009. During the AOI meeting, the permittee expressed interest in converting livestock class from sheep to cattle. This will be considered during the NEPA process.

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 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 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 is the deciding officer and the address for mailing the appeal copy is P. O. Box 56, El Rito, New Mexico 87530.

I will 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 others 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 livestock alike.

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION

COMANCHE ALLOTMENT

2009 GRAZING SEASON

Table 4 – Actual Use Form, 2009 grazing season, Comanche allotment

Pasture	Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
Lower	<i>Permittee is taking Non-use for the 2009 Season.</i>					
Upper						
Upper						
Lower						

Number of e/l counted on:

N/A

Number of e/l

lost: N/A

Additional Comments:

Table 5 - Form

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

