



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)

## ALAMOSA ALLOTMENT # 00201

Alamosa Livestock Association	Nerio N. & Alice M. Gurule
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	Fidelia Jaramillo
Steve Chavez	The Martinez Family Trust
Anselmo Gallegos	Horacio D., Ronald H., or Martin K. Martinez
Belinda Vasquez & Julian Gallegos	Carlos B. Ortega
Jose E. Gallegos	Manuel Pena
Antonio S. Griego Estate	Dan Jr. & Albinita G. Rael
Thomas L. Griego	Danny Vigil
Mrs. Tomas Griego	Jose R. Zamora

## CARSON NATIONAL FOREST EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT

<i>/s/ Diana M. Trujillo</i>		4/10/2009
District Ranger, El Rito		Date

# ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION'S (AOI)

## INTRODUCTION

This AOI is in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael, Craig Newman and Diana Trujillo on March 2, 2009. The authorized eartag color is "red".

**Table 1 – List of Permittees, permitted #s, and season**

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Comments
	#	Season	#	Season	
Alamosa Livestock Grazing Association	20 bulls	5/1 – 10/31	20	5/1 – 10/31	
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	82 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	82	5/1 – 10/31	
Steve Chavez	14 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	14	5/1 – 10/31	
Belinda Vasquez & Julian Gallegos	11 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	11	5/1 – 10/31	
Jose E. Gallegos	18 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	0		<i>Permit expired in 2000 and has not been renewed in spite of numerous attempts to contact and resolve</i>
Antonio S. Griego	67 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	67	5/1 – 10/31	
Thomas L. Griego	65 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	65	5/1 – 10/31	
Mrs. Tomas Griego	10 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	10	5/1 – 10/31	
Nerio N. & Alice M. Gurule	35 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	35	5/1 – 10/31	
Fidelia Jaramillo	9 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	9	5/1 – 10/31	
The Martinez Family Trust	24 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	22	5/1 – 10/31	
Horacio D., Ronald H. or Martin K. Martinez	16 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	16	5/1 – 10/31	
Carlos B. Ortega	51 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	39	5/1 – 10/31	
Manuel Pena	8 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	8	5/1 – 10/31	
Dan Jr. & Albinita G. Rael	4 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	4	5/1 – 10/31	
Danny Vigil	19 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	19	5/1 – 10/31	
Jose R. F. Zamora	7 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	0		<i>Permit has been in non use since 2001. Assigned improvements have not been maintained during this time.</i>
TOTAL	460 Head	5/1-10/31	428	5/1 – 10/31	

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

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.

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

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Alamosa 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 for Cattle Herd**

	05/01 – 06/01
La Madera Pasture	<i>Actual dates dependant on Range Readiness inspection.</i>
Posos/Borracho Pasture	06/01 – 07/31
Alamosa Pasture	08/01 – 09/30
Posos/Borracho Pasture	10/01 – 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 permittees later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Alamosa 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 Allamosa Allotment are light to moderate or 20 - 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. If riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

**Table 3 - MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2008**

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Borracho	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	75%
Borracho	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	36%
Posos	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	76%
Posos	Carex	20-40%	66%

Distribution of livestock needs to improve on the allotment as some areas of the allotment are receiving little use while others are receiving excessive use. At the end of the 2008 grazing season utilization was exceeded in key grazing areas on three of four species that were monitored in the Posos/Borracho pasture. 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. As discussed in this year's annual operating meeting, proper use of the rotation system and allotment cattle crossing onto adjacent allotments continues to be issue on the Alamosa Allotment. We encourage the permittees to do their best in keeping cattle from moving onto adjacent allotments and from going into the higher pastures early. Rotating cattle out of lower pastures on schedule and movement of all rather than some cattle from pastures as cattle are rotated is needed to ensure proper grazing utilization. Fence maintenance, salt dispersal, range riding and monitoring by the permittees can change utilization for the better. Adjustments in authorized livestock and season of use can be expected if distribution and management of livestock continues to result in excessive utilization.

### **MONITORING**

Monitoring will be conducted using a combination of monitoring techniques including, but not limited to, Parker 3-Step, 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. Dates for range readiness inspections have been set for April 21, 2009. Other monitoring dates are tentatively scheduled for June 10, August 5, and October 27 2009 for "End of Season" monitoring. 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. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

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.

### **IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

- The following projects are proposed for completion:
- 3 mile fence on Wilson Hill. (Partially completed by RMYC and YCC). Remaining materials are available at the District Office.
- Earthen Dam – Bancos East of Alamosa Drainage (Pending funding.)
- 1.5 mile Allotment Boundary Fence. Materials are available at the District Office.
- Martinez Spring water development.

### **FENCE MAINTENANCE**

Assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” must be maintained and determined to be in good functioning condition prior to the entry date. All other pasture fences and waters must be maintained prior to livestock movement into the next scheduled pasture.

An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

### **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 scheduled to begin and be completed in 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 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 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 cattle alike.