

2008

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)

EL RITO LOBATO WEST ALLOTMENT # 00200

Table - Permittees

El Rito Lobato Cattle Association
Celerino Archuleta
Pete C. Archuleta
Tony A. Archuleta
Michael J. Garcia
Tony M. Herrera
Cornelio R. Lopez
Johnathon C. Martinez
Ernest R. Suazo
Triple A Farms, c/o Robert Archuleta
Larry Varoz
Zenitram Industries, Inc.

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

/s/ Diana M. Trujillo

District Ranger, El Rito

01/25/2008

Date

Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs)

INTRODUCTION

This AOI is in reference to the discussion you had with Craig Newman, Diana Trujillo, and Ezequiel Rael on January 23, 2008. The authorized eartag color is "blue". The authorized use for the 2008 Grazing Season on the El Rito Lobato West Allotment is as follows:

Table 1 – Permittee List and Season of Use

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag #	Remarks Includes a reduction in numbers
	#	Season	#	Season		
El Rito Lobato Cattle Association	26 bulls	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	19 bulls	5/01 – 9/30	B 1 – 26	<i>35 % Voluntary Non-use for Resource Protection</i>
Celerino A. Archuleta	38 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	10 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	A 1 - 38	
Pete C. Archuleta	5 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	5 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	P 1 – 5	
Tony A. Archuleta	11 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	11 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	C 1 – 11	
Michael J. Garcia	62 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	37 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	G 1 – 62	<i>Partial Non-use for Resource Protection</i>
Tony M. Herrera	34 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		H 1 – 34	
Cornelio R. Lopez	15 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		J 1 – 15	<i>Voluntary Total Non-use for Resource Protection</i>
Jonathon C. Martinez	65 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	54 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	V 1 – 65	<i>17 % Voluntary Non-use for Resource Protection</i>
Ernest R. Suazo	9 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	9 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	S 1 – 9	
Triple A Farms, c/o Robert Archuleta	29 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	29 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	E 1 – 18	
Zenitram Industries, Inc.	131 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	131 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	Z 1 –131	
TOTAL	425 Head	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	286 c/c 19 bulls	5/01 – 9/30		33% Total Reductions

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for summer and winter grazing. All permittees are invited to participate in the range readiness currently scheduled for April 22nd and April 29th. We will meet at the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 AM.

Compliance with New Mexico Statewide Regulations, NMAC 21.30.6 Bovine Trichomoniasis, effective June 17, 2005 is a term and condition of the USFS grazing permit. We ask you to comply with the Trichomoniasis regulations imposed by the State of New Mexico. We will not add any additional regulations other than what the state requires.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the El Rito Lobato West 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.

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. Any Non-use may be recorded as Resource Protection for the 2008 grazing season.

If a permittee elects to request “*total nonuse*” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned fences and 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

SUMMER USE:

Perro Pasture	232 Head of Cattle	5/01 - 5/15
Sage Pasture	232 Head of Cattle	5/16 – 5/31
Madera Pasture	286 Head of Cattle	6/01 – 6/21
Comanche Pasture	286 Head of Cattle	6/22 – 7/13
Amarilla	286 Head of Cattle	7/01 – 8/07
Sierra	286 Head of Cattle	8/08 – 9/30
Manzanares Pasture	54 Head of Cattle	5/01 – 5/31

WINTER USE:

Sage Pasture	232 Head of Cattle	11/01 – 11/30
Perro Pasture	232 Head of Cattle	12/01 – 12/31
Manzanares Pasture	54 Head of Cattle	11/01 – 12/31

FORAGE UTILIZATION GUIDELINES

Forage Utilization will be measured in key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the El Rito Lobato West 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.

The following are El Rito Lobato West Allotment’s key forage species:

Table 3 – Allowable Use Standards

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble
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		Height
Sage/Perro/Manzanares Pastures	Western Wheat	4 – 6”
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5”
	Black Grama	4 – 6”
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 6”
Comanche/Madera Pastures	Arizona Fescue	6 – 8”
	Kentucky Bluegrass	4 – 6”
	Mt. Muhly	4 – 6”
Amarilla/Sierra	AZ /Thurber Fescue	6 – 8”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 6”
	Mt. Muhly	4 – 6”
	Oat Grasses	8 – 10”
Riparian Areas	Red Top	4 – 6”
	Kentucky Bluegrass	4 – 6”
	Sedges	4 – 6”

MONITORING

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Permittees are encouraged and invited to participate in these inspections. 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 standards. 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 are proposed for the El Rito Lobato West Allotment in 2008:

- Reconstruct existing stock tanks (Atascosa and Banco Aragon) in Sierra Pasture (Donald Martinez volunteered to take the lead on this)

- Clean out tanks within burned area – Maestas Tank
- Construct fence within the burned area – Need to see if funds will be available in 2008
- Meet with State Highway Department regarding fences along State Highway 554
- Clean out cattleguards
- Fence in Perro pasture
- Check on repairs to Sierra Spring
- Will go out with permittees to check on silted tank between Cholejo and Sierra.

It is important that you inspect and maintain the assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” to a 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(s).

In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining fences on your allotment, 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 new Forest Plan implementation schedule, an Allotment Management Plan update, developed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, has been scheduled for completion in 2008.

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.

OTHER

Reminder, the permittee(s) must be in "*good standing*" with the respective association. This includes but is not limited to salt fees, bull fees, range improvement fees, and rider fees. Annual validations and Waiver of Term Grazing Permit(s) will be approved and processed only if permittee is in good standing.

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 Martin Chavez, 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 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 cattle alike.