



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
El Rito Ranger District

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2006

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)

SAN GABRIEL ALLOTMENT # 00204

MARTIN RANCH
P.O. BOX 8
EL RITO, NM 87530

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

Permittee or Association President

Date

District Ranger

Date



Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs)

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operating Instructions are in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael on April 28, 2006. The authorized eartag color is "*orange*". The authorized use for the 2006 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		
Martin Ranch	100 c/c	6/01 – 10/15	65 c/c	6/01 – 10/15	1 - 100	<i>35% Voluntary reduction in numbers for resource protection.</i>

If the current drought conditions continue, it may be necessary for you to remove your cattle from the forest earlier than expected. The dry conditions may cause utilization rates to be reached sooner than the planned dates. Please insure that you help in moving the cattle. It's critical that utilization rates are maintained as a part of drought management. Movement decisions will be made in cooperation with you and based on the utilization of key forage species and key areas as outlined in the Annual Operating Instructions.

Compliance with New Mexico Statewide Regulations, NMAC 21.30.6 Bovine Trichomoniasis, effective June 17, 2005 hereby becomes 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.

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing.

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 to remove stray(s) permitted livestock 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). Any Nonuse will be recorded as resource protection for the 2006 Grazing Season. Verbal applications will not be accepted.

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

A credit/refund application must be submitted 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	90 Head of Cattle	6/01 – 6/07
Gurule Pasture	90 Head of Cattle	6/08 – 7/23
CCC Pasture	90 Head of Cattle	7/24 – 9/07
Middle Pasture	90 Head of Cattle	9/08 – 10/15

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forage Utilization will be measured in key area shown on the attached map. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the San Gabriel 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.

Within the San Gabriel Allotment the key forage species are:

Table 3 – Forage Utilization Standards

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
ALL Pastures	AZ/Thurber Fescue	6 – 7”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 5”
	Oat Grasses	8 – 10”
Riparian Areas	Red Top	4 – 6”
	Kentucky Blue	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 tentatively planned to be accomplished in 2006 on the San Gabriel Allotment. These projects are:

- Up on the Hill Spring (Pending notification from State Engineer's Office)
- Fence maintenance along Holding pasture

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year 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.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

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

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

An Environmental Analysis and Allotment Management Plan update, using the NEPA process, is currently scheduled for completion in 2006. An Interdisciplinary (ID) Team of specialists has been formed and plans are to complete the EA and AMP by the end of the fiscal year.

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.

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 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.



**ACTUAL USE INFORMATION
SAN GABRIEL ALLOTMENT
2006 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
Holding Pasture	90 cow/calf	6/1	6/7			
Gurule Pasture	90 cow/calf	6/8	7/23			
CCC Pasture	90 cow/calf	7/24	9/7			
Middle/Pasture	90 cow/calf	9/8	10/15			

Number of Head counted on:

Number of head lost: _____.

Table 4

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

Additional Comments:



**UTILIZATION INFORMATION
SAN GABRIEL ALLOTMENT
2006 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 2

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

