



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)

EL RITO LOBATO EAST ALLOTMENT # 00207

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

Permittee or Association President

Date

District Ranger

Date



Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs)

INTRODUCTION

This AOI is in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael and Diana Trujillo on February 21, 2006. The authorized eartag color is "white". The authorized use for the 2006 Grazing Season on the El Rito Lobato East 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		
Gallegos Ranch	80 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	50 c/c	5/15 – 9/30	1 - 80	38% Voluntary Reduction for Resource Protection
J & R Partnership	63 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	Total Non-use		81 - 143	Total Nonuse for Resource Protection
Felipe D. Martinez	34 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	24 c/c	5/15 – 9/30	147 - 177	30% Voluntary Reduction for Resource Protection
Joe C. Martinez	60 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	55 c/c	5/15 – 9/30	178 –237	8% Voluntary Reduction for Resource Protection
Lupe & Delfin Moya	8 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	4 c/c	5/15 – 9/30	238 - 245	50% Voluntary Reduction for Resource Protection
El Rito Lobato Del Norte Grazing Association	13 bulls	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	8 bulls	5/15 – 9/30	246 - 254	39% Voluntary Reduction for Resource Protection
TOTAL	258 Head	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	141 Head	5/01 – 9/30		45% Total Voluntary Reduction

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

Given the drought conditions with low forage production and water availability, it is highly probable that the allowable use standards will be reached before the scheduled end date for the allotment. Forage conditions will be monitored as the grazing season progresses.

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.

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).

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the El Rito Lobato East 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 2006 grazing season. 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

SUMMER USE:

Placitas-South Pasture*	141 Head	5/15 – 5/31
Placitas-North Pasture*	141Head	5/15 – 5/31
El Rito North Pasture	Should be used while drifting cattle toward Potrero pasture	
Potrero Pasture	141 Head	6/01 – 7/31
La Jara Pasture	141 Head	8/01 – 9/30

WINTER USE:

Placitas Pasture	TBD with Range Inspection in Fall	TBD
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* Placitas North and South Pastures to be grazed simultaneously in order to have better livestock distribution.

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

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

Table 3 – ERLE Key Forage Species

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Placitas North/ South and El Rito North	Western Wheat	4 – 5”
	Blue Gramma	2 – 2.5”
	Black Gramma	4 – 5”
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 5.5”
La Jara	Arizona Fescue	6 –7”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 5”
	Mt. Muhly	4 – 5”
Potrero	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”



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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 have been proposed for the El Rito Lobato East Allotment in 2006:

- Installation of a cattleguard on Forest Road 123 at the Switchback.

The following projects were discussed at the annual meeting:

- New fence along highway near Mesa Vista Administration building. Need to have meeting with NM State Highway Dept to see if they are willing to build it along Highway right of way.
- Permittees have expressed that there are several roads within the allotment that they would like closed. Will talk to Timber and Roads Staff to see what can be done.

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 AOI. According to the new Forest Plan implementation schedule, an Allotment Management Plan update, developed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, has been rescheduled for the year 2006. Data will be gathered on allotment in the Summer and Fall. Permittee participation is encouraged.

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.



**ACTUAL USE INFORMATION
EI RITO LOBATO EAST ALLOTMENT
2006 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
SUMMER USE:						
Placitas-South	141c/c	5/01	5/31			
Placitas-North	141 c/c	5/01	5/31			
El Rito North	Should be used while drifting cattle toward Potrero pasture					
Potrero	141 c/c	6/01	7/31			
La Jara	141 c/c	8/01	9/30			
WINTER USE:						
Placitas-South Pasture	TBD	TBD	TBD			

Number of Head counted on _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Table 4

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

Additional Comments:



**UTILIZATION INFORMATION
EL RITO LOBATO EAST ALLOTMENT
2006 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 2

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
Summer Use:					
Placitas-South					
Placitas-North					
El Rito North					
Potrero					
La Jara					
Winter Use:					
Placitas Pasture					

