



2004

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)

ESCONDIDO ALLOTMENT # 00205

GRIEGO RANCH
P.O. Box 742
LA MADERA, N.M. 87539

**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 29, 2004. The authorized eartag color is "orange". The authorized use for the 2004 Grazing Season on the Escondido Allotment is as follows:

Table 1 – Permittee Information and Season of Use

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag #	Remarks
	#	Season	#	Season		
Griego Ranch	71 c/c	5/23 – 10/15	71 c/c	5/23 – 10/15	1 - 71	

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Escondido 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. Any Nonuse may be recorded as Resource Protection for the 2004 Grazing Season.

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:

Felipito Pasture	71 Head of Cattle	5/23 – 6/15
Lower Pasture	71 Head of Cattle	6/16 – 7/04
Upper Pasture	71 Head of Cattle	7/05 – 10/15



FORAGE UTILIZATION

Forage Utilization will be measured in key areas shown on the attached map. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Escondido 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 - Key Forage Species:

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Lower/Upper Pasture	Arizona Fescue	6 - 7"
	Kentucky Blue	4 - 5"
	Mt. Muhly	4 - 5"
Felipito	AZ / Thurber Fescue	6 - 7"
	Kentucky Blue	4 - 5"
	Oat Grasses	8 - 10"
	Mt. Muhly	4 - 5"
Riparian Areas	Red Top	4 - 6"
	Kentucky Blue	4 - 6"
	Sedges	4 - 6"

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is encouraged. A five day grace period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the allotment.

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

No new range improvements were implemented on the Escondido allotment in 2003.

Permittee Tom Griego requested YCC crew to put up wooden fence stays for 1/2 - 3/4 of a mile on the fence built with 319 grant.

Mr. Griego also wants FS to look at ABF with Salvador Complex and Jarosita allotments.

A 319 grant proposal was submitted to NMED to improve conditions throughout the Rio Vallecitos watershed. Three projects were proposed by permittee Thomas Griego to implement within the Escondido allotment. Results of the grant proposal will not be known until late spring/early summer 2004.

Any future projects desired by the permittee must be brought to the attention of the Range Staff at the El



Rito RD so that that can be scheduled as funds become available.

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 the 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 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.

TRESPASS AND UNAUTHORIZED USE

Notify the El Rito Ranger District of any known violation. Grazing permit holders who put on more livestock than authorized will be served with a notice of non-compliance, charged an unauthorized grazing fee, and face possible suspension/cancellation of all or part of their permit. Permittees are encouraged to report all trespass to the District range personnel.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

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

The Carson National Forest Plan implementation schedule lists this allotment to undergo a 10-year Environmental Assessment and Allotment Management Plan update for the year 2006.

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 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



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
El Rito Ranger District**

**P. O. Box 56
El Rito, New Mexico 87530
505-581-4554
TT/TDD 505-581-4554
FAX 505-581-4556**

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
ESCONDIDO ALLOTMENT
2004 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
Felipito	71 Head of cattle	5/23	6/15			
Lower	71 Head of cattle	6/16	7/04			
Upper	71 Head of cattle	7/05	10/15			

Number of Head counted on: _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Additional Comments:

Table 1

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

