

2009

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
(AOI'S)**

ENGLISH ALLOTMENT #00106

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
CANJILON RANGER DISTRICT**

/s/Craig L. Newman for

**Wayne Yonemoto,
Acting Detailed District Ranger**

4/20/2009

Date

Annual Operating Instructions

AUTHORIZATION

The English Grazing allotment is permitted 208 Cattle from 5/16 – 10/31 You are authorized to graze the following in 2009, 208 Cattle from May 5 to 10/20:

Table 1 - Permitted & Authorized Use

<i>Number of Cattle Permitted</i>	<i>Number of Cattle Authorized</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Grazing Period</i>
208	208	Dead Deer	5/2-5/16
208	208	East English	5/17-6/13
208	208	Chavez	6/14-6/27
208	208	Cedar	6/28-7/11
208	208	West English	7/12-7/25
208	208	Dead Deer	7/26-8/8
208	208	East English	8/9-8/29
208	208	Chavez	8/30-9/12
208	208	Cedar	9/13-9/26
208	208	West English	9/27-10/10
208	208	Dead Deer	10/11-10/17

The following table shows each member's grazing allocation status:

Table 2 - Permitted & Authorized Use by Permittee

<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Number of Cattle Permitted</i>	<i>Number of Private Land Cattle</i>	<i>Number of Cattle Authorized</i>	<i>Number on Non-Use Status</i>
Hayes, Joe (Estate)	18	--	18	0
Hibner, Charlie	137	--	137	0
Thronas, Fred	18	22	40	0
John Law	--	13	13	0
Totals	173	35	208	0

Range readiness inspections will be conducted April 24. If the range is ready, you will be authorized to enter the allotment on May 2.

You must continue salting practices to draw the cattle away from the meadows. It is in your best interest to fully distribute your cattle throughout the entire range. We monitor at the key areas and if these areas are fully used then you will be moving your cattle

head of schedule and perhaps headed home sooner than your ending or off date you should also move your salt blocks often so as not “beat” out salt areas.

The routing schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when an unforeseen circumstance such as lack of water or overuse occurs within the pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above routing schedule in coordination with this office. A written justification should be submitted by the permittee ten days prior to the proposed changes to this office before a proposal to change the above routing schedule will be acted upon by the District Ranger. The decision made by the District Ranger will be based upon the condition of the range, recommendations of the range staff, and the needs of the permittees.

If you decide to move your cattle off of the grazing allotment early or put on reduced numbers resulting in less head months grazed than the amount paid for, you may want to apply for a credit/refund of unused grazing fees. In order to do so, you will need to apply in writing for the credit within two weeks of incurring the credit/refund or by November 1 2009, which ever comes first. This keeps the numbers fresh in everyone’s mind and allows for Ranger approval and more accurate accounting of grazing fees the following season.

All cattle should be moved off the allotment by the last day of the grazing season. The last day of the grazing season is not the day to open gates and allow cattle to drift home. We understand that a few cows will be hard to catch. We ask that you make a concerted effort and let us know if you have any cows left on the grazing allotment after the end of the grazing season.

2009 ALOTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Authorized reductions in time and numbers of livestock may influence flexibility of livestock management in the deferred rotation system.
2. Management goal is to improve consistent communication/documentation of actual use to USFS. USFS is requesting record of actual use, are to be submitted to the USFS at the end of the 2009 grazing season, 10/09.
3. Maintain or improve current range condition of English grazing allotment by fence maintenance herding, riding, salting, and good stewardship practices.
4. It is highly recommended that the 2009 rotation schedule follow a one herd short duration high intensity grazing system.
5. The English permittees will allow only the numbers, kind and class of livestock on the allotment during the period specified in Part 1 hereof or the annual Bill for Collection, including any modifications made as provided for in Section 8 (c). Part 3 item 4. Permittees will notify the District Ranger at least 5 days before livestock enter National Forest Service lands.

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the English Allotment. We will be checking levels of use during the grazing season. We will be visiting the allotment to ensure that utilization levels are within recommended levels. This year we may establish photo points and/or measure stubble height within key areas on key grass species to determine utilization. Grazing permittees are invited to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while these range condition evaluations are being made. Within the English Allotment the key grass species utilization will be light to moderate or 20-40% use. This is equated out to the stubble height requirements listed in Table 3.

Table 3 - Key Forage Species

<i>Pasture Name</i>	<i>Key Forage Species</i>	<i>Utilization Guidelines</i>	<i>Stubble Height</i>
All pastures in English Allotment	Western & Crested Wheatgrass	20-40%	3" – 4"
	Blue Grama	For all Species	1.5" – 2"

Table 4 2008 END OF SEASON MONITORING

Pasture	Date	Species	%Utilization (20-40% std)	Stubble Height	Standard
Cedar	11/21	Blue Grama	29.5%	2.1"	1.5-2"
		Western Wheatgrass	17.5%	6.5"	3-4"
Chavez	11/21	Blue Grama	43.2%	2.0"	1.5-2"
		Crested Wheatgrass	22.9%	5.3"	3-4"
Dead Deer	11/21	Blue Grama	51.4%	1.9"	1.5-2"
		Western Wheatgrass	16.6%	6.7"	3-4"
East English	11/20	Blue Grama	36.2%	1.7"	1.5-2"
		Crested Wheatgrass	26.5%	5.1"	3-4"
West English	11/21	Blue Grama	43.4%	2.5"	1.5-2"
		Western Wheatgrass	21.0%	6.1"	3-4"

Table 4 lists last years utilization guidelines and Utilization guidelines were not met on all Blue Grama grass in three of the pastures. This is due to the fact that Blue Grama is very palatable later in the grazing season while some of the other species are cured out. Another factor is the late monitoring. English was the last allotment to be monitored, which can account for some if the high utilization. We can assume that elk utilized the forage after the cows had left. If utilization standards are not met in the reasonable future, we may look into shorter periods of rotation or dividing the larger pastures into smaller pastures. As always, placing salt away from water and high use areas, along with riding the allotment and proper fence maintenance will help distribute the cattle evenly in the pasture.

MONITORING

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to ensure that proper use levels are not exceeded. If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble

heights, actions will be taken to limit additional forage use. We are especially concerned with use levels in canyon bottoms where cattle tend to concentrate use on palatable feed. We have identified key areas to be monitored on this allotment (map attached). The primary grass species on this allotment and approximate stubble heights associated with 20-40% use are as outlined above.

Forage use level should be monitored periodically by permittees to aid in determining when livestock should be moved between pastures. Forest Service personnel will be checking within each grazed pasture during the scheduled grazing period. If use within that key area is approaching allowable 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.

The Forest Service may conduct inspections on the grazing allotment during the on-going grazing period as time and personnel availability allows. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated. The range readiness inspection will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. The permittees are encouraged to participate in these inspections.

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of existing range improvements is critical to the proper management of your allotment. In order for rotation schedules to work, all assigned fences must be in good condition. As usual all fences, in the pasture you will be using first, must be up and functioning. Then, before you move your cattle to the next pasture, the fences in that pasture must be maintained and in good condition prior to cattle being allowed to enter the pasture. As you know the livestock grazing program has come under the scrutiny of the environmental public. It is critical that we demonstrate the ability to manage your livestock. This means that the cattle should be in the pastures scheduled for grazing during the times they are scheduled to be there.

Improvements that were brought up during the AOI are:

- Cattle guard between Hinds Ranch and Huckaby
- $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of fence Juaquin and Cedar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of fence on the Hinds place.
- Brush cutting on Chavez and English pasture.
- Reconstruct trick tank in the East English pasture.

SPECIAL MITIGATION MEASURES

In order to conform with Amendment of Forest Plans and the final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Biological Opinion for Ongoing Livestock Grazing Activities on Allotments" which determine a No Affect and/or May affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect on your allotment, the following conditions must be met

Forage Utilization:

Forage use by grazing animals will be maintained at or above a condition which assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species. In order to attain this standard, the above site specific key areas and key forage utilization standards have been developed for the English Allotment.

Mineral Supplements/Salt Blocks:

Mineral supplement/Salt block sites will be regularly rotated to reduce trampling and grazing impacts to vegetation. Cutting salt blocks in half before distributing them on the range is an easy way to avoid having to move them, as they get used before they need to be moved.