

LUNA-CHACON ALLOTMENT # 406

Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2009

The annual meeting for the Luna Chacon Allotment was held on March 24, 2009, at the Fire Department office in Buena Vista, New Mexico. Attending were Martin Romero, Herman and Elizabeth Romero, Benancio Trujillo, and Ross Torres from the Luna Chacon Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of each Term Grazing Permit on the Luna-Chacon Allotment.

FS and permittees discussed improving drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment, and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming season. Permittees will be able to run full numbers this year.

Table 1 - Permittee, Permitted and Authorized number and kind.

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized Number and Kind
Luna Chacon Grazing Assoc.	(14 bulls)	14 bulls
Chacon Group		
John Abeyta	20 cow/calf	20 cow/calf
Martin M. Romero	21 cow/calf	21 cow/calf
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin L. Cruz	32 cow/calf	32 cow/calf
Ernesto E. Gonzales	7 cow/calf	7 cow/calf
John Paul Vigil	5 cow/calf	5 cow/calf
Emilie Vigil & J. Lorenzo Vigil	4 cow/calf	4 cow/calf
Herman & Elizabeth Romero	43 cow/calf	43 cow/calf
Manuel Romero	11 cow/calf	11 cow/calf
Benancio Trujillo	26 cow/calf	26 cow/calf
Luna Group		
Noe A. & Emilia C. Duran	33 cow/calf	33 cow/calf
Robert or Janet Garcia	26 cow/calf	26 cow/calf
Mr. & Mrs. Jose A. Hurtado	13 cow/calf	13 cow/calf
Andres Martinez	16 cow/calf	nonuse
Ross & Emily Torres	31 cow/calf	31 cow/calf

Table 2 - Season of Use

2. Season of Use	
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)

Table 3 - Pasture estimated time and actual use and utilization.

3. Pasture Rotation Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual Use	Utilization %
<i>Chacon</i>				
Romero Lake	06/01 – 06/15	15 days		
Sardinas	06/16 – 07/25	40 days		
La Presa	07/26 – 09/15	52 days		
Romero Lake	09/16 – 09/30	15 days		
<i>Luna</i>				
Bull Canyon	REST			
Lower Luna	06/01-06/20			
Upper Luna	06/21-09/20			
Lower Luna	09/21-09/30			

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Luna/Chacon allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Range improvements, i.e. fences, will be maintained prior to moving to a different pasture.

4. Maintenance of Improvements

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittees going on to the allotment.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2008 grazing season went well overall on Luna and Chacon units with use being within the utilization guidelines. This was due to good production of forage on the allotment. Maintenance of improvements was adequate throughout the allotment. Livestock were well distributed throughout the allotment all season.

Utilization guidelines for 2009 are 40% in key forage areas of annual available forage and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key forage areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittees and the Camino Real Ranger District will look at range together to determine range readiness and specific on-date.

FS discussed with permittees that testing for Bovine Trichomoniasis on all bulls entering FS lands is no longer mandatory but is encouraged.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. If permittees need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required improvement maintenance and other duties such as checking that gates are closed, checking cattle distribution, monitoring, and placing of salt; the Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

The opportunity of being able to hire a rider and have half his wages paid for by the Quivira Coalition was discussed.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2009:

1. Reconstruct fence in La Presa unit in the Larkspur fence.
2. A cattleguard is needed on the Larkspur Fence (priority) and at the gate on the fence between Sardinias and La Presa units. These cattleguards could be smaller cattleguards to allow ATV traffic.
3. Cattle guard at La Presa and Luna division.

Permittees were informed on the progress with the NEPA efforts on their allotment. The EA is just about finalized and the decision should be signed shortly. Once the decision is signed and unless it is appealed, the permittees will be issued a new permit and the various range improvements proposed will be ready to be worked on.

The Camino Real Ranger District will provide replacement tags as needed.

The Grazing Instructions for 2009 are the same as in 2008.

The Camino Real Ranger District would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.

APPEAL RIGHTS:

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 or the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with the Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, NM 87571, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with the Camino Real District Forest Ranger, who was the deciding officer and the address for mailing the appeal copy is P.O. Box 68, Penasco, New Mexico 87553.