

KNOB ALLOTMENT #412
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2009

The annual meeting for the Knob Allotment was held on April 29, 2009, in Española, New Mexico. Paul Martinez attended. Melvin Herrera represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for Paul Martinez.

The Camino Real District and permittee discussed the improving drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming season. Considerable snowfall has occurred and permittee was offered to graze full numbers this upcoming season.

The following items were discussed.

Table 1 - Permittee, permitted kind and number.

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and kind	Authorized Number and Kind
Paul Martinez	40 cow/calf	40 cow/calf 2 bulls

2. Season of Use	
06/27 - 09/20	(86 days)

Table 2 - Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual use	Utilization %
Indian Lake	06/27 – 07/14	18 days		
Angostura	07/15 – 08/07	24 days		
Quemazon	08/18 – 09/02	25 days		
Agua Piedra	09/03 – 09/10	8 days		
Cordova Canyon	09/11 - 09/20	10 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Knob 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

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

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2008 grazing season went well and use was within the guidelines. Forage production and vigor of plants looked good on the allotment. The permittee did a good job of keeping cows out of the campground, and distribution overall was good. Maintenance of range improvements was good. There were some livestock from the Santa Barbara allotment that strayed into the Quemazon again this year and also into the Cordova canyon pasture. The Santa Barbara permittees advised that livestock are getting in through the Comales trail into Cordova canyon. This fence will need some work and maintenance is assigned to the Knob allotment. Permittee feels that livestock may be coming in from other established trails. We will look into it this season.

The permittee would like for the Camino Real District to cut open all the trails on the allotment. There will be a trail crew this year and they may possibly have time to do this work.

The permittee again requested that a letter of authorization be prepared for his use of an ATV to maintain range improvements and to work his livestock on the allotment.

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.

Permittee and FS personnel will look at range together to determine range readiness and actual on-date.

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

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

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2009:

1. Gap fences in Upper and Lower Cordova and Comales trail.
2. Opening stock trails.
3. Prescribed burns.
4. Thinning areas.

FS will provide replacement tags for his cattle as needed.

FS asked the permittee to report sightings of trespass cattle, vandalism on range improvements, dumping, or other violations to Range personnel for incident reporting and action.

Forest Service would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.