

LUNA-CHACON ALLOTMENT # 406

Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2008

The annual meeting for the Luna Chacon Allotment was held on February 29, 2008, at the District office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Leroy Abeyta, Manuel Romero, Herman Romero, Benancio Trujillo, Ross Torres, Jose Hurtado, Benjamin Cruz, Noe Duran, and Ernesto Gonzales from the Luna Chacon Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera, Dan Rael, 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
Leroy and Clarence Abeyta	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	16 cow/calf
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	06/01 – 09/30	122		
Lower Luna	REST			
Upper Luna	REST			

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 2007 grazing season went well overall on Luna and Chacon units with use being within allowable limits. 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. Forest Service did intensive monitoring on the allotment to aid in the NEPA process. This included reading utilization cages and Parker 3 Step clusters to determine range condition and trend.

Utilization guidelines for 2008 are 40% in key forage areas of annual available forage and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forge 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 on-date.

FS relayed information in cooperation with the New Mexico Livestock Board on required bull testing for Bovine Trichomoniasis on all bulls entering FS lands. Compliance with NM Statewide Regulations, **NMAC 21.30.6 Bovine Trichomoniasis**, effective June 17, 2005 hereby becomes a term and condition of the USFS grazing permit.

The Forest Service Travel Management Rule went into effect Novemeber 9, 2005 requiring the designation of those roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use. It also states that the use of motor vehicles will be prohibited off of the designated system, with exceptions (36 CFR 2212.51(a)). The implications for grazing permittees have not been fully determined yet for the Region but, are being

discussed. Permittees rely on many roads and trails throughout the allotment to distribute salt, maintain range improvements, check livestock and monitor the allotment.

The opportunity of being able to hire a rider and have half his wages paid for by the Quivira Coalition was discussed. The Camino Real District also discussed opportunities for short-courses being made available and paid by the Quivira such as range monitoring and low stress livestock handling.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2008:

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.

The Luna/Chacon Allotment is undergoing NEPA in 2008, and permittees were updated on the progress. Permittees have been sharing new management ideas and concerns with the Forest Service and these will be considered as forest service progresses through the analysis. This includes many range improvements proposed by permittees to improve management on the allotment. Prescribed burning was also discussed as an option to improve conditions on the allotment.

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

The Grazing Instructions for 2008 are the same as in 2007.

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.