

**EAST FERNANDEZ ALLOTMENT #457**

Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2008**

The annual meeting for the East Fernandez Allotment was held on April 8, 2008, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Permittees attending were Larry and Jose Mondragon. Sean Kelly and Melvin Herrera represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits on the East Fernandez Allotment.

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 permittees were offered to graze full numbers this upcoming season.

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

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and Kind</b>
Jose M. Mondragon	6 cow/calf	8 cow/calf
Larry E. Mondragon	7 cow/calf, 1 bull	9 cow/calf, 1 bull

**Table 2 - Season of Use**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/20 - 09/30	(102 days)

**Table 3 - Pasture Rotation**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Time</b>	<b>Actual use</b>	<b>Utilization %</b>
East Fernandez	06/20 - 09/30	102 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the East Fernandez 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 part of the 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 and use was within the guidelines. Forage production was good and vigor of plants looked good throughout the allotment. Distribution of livestock throughout the allotment was good. Maintenance of range improvements was acceptable.

Utilization guidelines for 2008 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be monitored in key forage areas. Permittees are responsible for monitoring the allotment, and ensuring adequate distribution.

Grazing Instructions for 2008 are the same as in 2007.

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

Permittees and FS 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 November 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. The permittees commented that they would prefer many roads to be closed on their allotment.

Permittee asked about being able to move livestock that they currently graze on an allotment in San Cristobal, Questa RD, to the allotment in East Fernandez. It would be 10 c/c and 1 bull. FS explained that there is a possibility of doing that but other options must also be considered first.

The Camino Real District will provide tags to permittees as needed.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2008:

1. Gathering corral near Valle Escondido. Permittees have a real need for this corral and it may also benefit the permittee on Tienditas. This will be considered when the allotment comes up for Nepa in the next several years.
2. Water developments on East side; earthtanks near La Chosa, new drinker at Tecolote spring, and repairs at Mascarenas spring.
3. Permittees requested FS look at possible water gap in division fence.
4. Fence to keep cattle out of Valle Escondido and cattleguard.

Water development on the allotment is an important concern to the permittees. FS can provide a green Powder River water trough to replace the drinker at Tecolote spring. The permittee said they will need Forest Service help to get a new drinker to Mascarenas spring.

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.

