

April 15, 2008

**ANGOSTURA ALLOTMENT #405  
Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2008**

The annual meeting for the Angostura Allotment was held on February 7, 2008, at the District Office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Elias Hurtado represented the Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits for the Angostura Grazing permittees.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittee discussed improving drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment, and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. Conditions for this year appear positive as seen so far this winter. The full permitted numbers could be grazed this year and any non-use will be recorded as personal convenience.

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

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized number and kind</b>
Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association	4 bulls	4 bulls
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Hurtado	69 cow/calf	69 cow/calf
Estevan R. Lopez	10 cow/calf	10 cow/calf
Mrs. Robert P. Vigil	6 cow/calf	nonuse

**Table 2- Season of use**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)
06/16 - 9/05	(81 days - Mrs. Robert Vigil)

**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>
Lower Alamitos	06/01 - 06/10	10 days		
Dropout	06/11 - 07/10	30 days		
Upper Alamitos	07/11 - 08/10	31 days		
Lower Alamitos	08/11 - 08/31	20 days		
Agua Sarca/Loring	09/01- 09/30	30 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Angostura 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, pasture 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 on the Angostura allotment. Production on the allotment was excellent last season and plants exhibited good vigor. Utilization levels were within allowable limits in key areas and riparian areas exceeded four inch stubble height guidelines.

Range monitoring by the permittees on the allotment is continuing and encouraged.

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

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 measured in key use areas.

The grazing fee for 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.

Permittees are concerned with potential unauthorized use by Santa Fe National Forest permitted cattle. The association president suggested gates could help in places where the public cut the new fence.

Mr. Hurtado reminded us of his request to remove the Loring spring structures and trough.

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. Permittees stated that they need ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required maintenance on range improvements, checking to make sure gates are closed, checking on cattle welfare and making sure they are well distributed, and placing of salt.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2008:

1. Improve fence in Loring Spring and move trough away from the spring.
2. Rebuild corral at Alamitos.

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

Some discussion took place on the continuing NEPA process for this allotment. Forest Service shared with the permittee on exactly what has happened and the steps taking place, including the purpose and need for the project and proposed alternatives. Permittees are encouraged to continue to be involved throughout the NEPA process. FS provided copies of the three Proper Functioning Condition manuals (PFC) which are used to assess riparian condition. FS also provided a copy of the Guide to NEPA and ESA Involvement Prepared for USFS Grazing Permittees to the association president, who was present at the meeting, and mailed copies to the other permittees. Mr. Hurtado informed us that he had submitted comments and an allotment history narrative to the Forest Supervisor.

FS reminded permittees that they are responsible for calling to arrange livestock counts before on-date.

There is an opportunity of being able to hire a rider and have half his wages paid for by the Quivira Coalition and the other half paid by the permittee. There are also opportunities for short-courses being made available and paid by the Quivira such as range monitoring and low stress livestock handling.

The Camino Real Ranger District 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.

**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, Peñasco, New Mexico 87553.