

SANTA BARBARA ALLOTMENT #403

Carson National Forest
 Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2007

The annual meeting for the Santa Barbara Allotment was held on March 9, 2007, at the District Office at Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Andie Sanchez, Manuel Griego, Octavio Griego, Anthony Esquibel, Joe Griego, Lee Maestas, Clarence Romero, and Charlie Sanchez from the Santa Barbara Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera represented the Camino Real Ranger District.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for the Santa Barbara Grazing Association.

The Camino Real Ranger District and permittees discussed current drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment, and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming season. Some considerations in dealing with recent drought are reduction in authorized numbers, season of use, pasture rotations, and possible early off dates. Permittees volunteered a 17 percent reduction in number of permitted livestock to deal with prevailing drought conditions. This number reduction, as well as good management to achieve better distribution on the allotment, will allow for rangeland plant recovery.

Table 1

1. Permittee	Number and Kind	Authorized number and kind
Santa Barbara Grazing Association	192 cow/calf, 11 bulls	158 cow/calf, 11 bulls
Pete A. & Gloria M. Contreras	(10 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Lloyd, Anthony, & Norman Esquibel	(25 cow/calf)	(30 cow/calf, 2 bulls)
Dorothy K. Gonzales	(18 cow/calf)	(12 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Joe G. & Helen Griego	(7 cow/calf)	(8 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Manuel A. Griego	(7 cow/calf)	(13 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Octavio Griego	(12 cow/calf)	(24 cow/calf)
Estevan R. Lopez	(10 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 2 bulls)
Rutilio A. Martinez	(10 cow/calf)	(8 cow/calf)
Clarence R. Romero	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Joseph Oliver Rodarte	(4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Lee and Betty Maestas	(30 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Andie R. Sanchez	(27 cow/calf)	(27 cow/calf, 2 bulls)
Charlie F. & Brenda M. Sanchez	(23 cow/calf)	(25 cow/calf, 2 bull)

Table 2

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

Table 3 - Season 06/01 – 09/30 of Use

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Dates	Time	Actual use	Utilization%
Santa Barbara (hayfield)	06/01 - 6/04	4 days		
Santa Barbara (bottoms)	06/05 – 6/10	6 days		
Osha/Bear Mtn/Comales	06/11 – 07/10	30 days		
Indian/Jicarita	07/11 – 07/31	20 days		
Middle/East Fork	08/01 – 09/05	36 days		
West Fork	09/06 – 09/20	15 days		
Santa Barbara (bottoms and hayfield)	09/21 – 09/30	10 days		

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 2006 season went well overall. Stocking the allotment with a 29 percent reduction in numbers allowed the permittees to graze all season long within the utilization guidelines of 40 percent in key areas as monitored by Forest Service employees. Distribution of livestock needs to improve as many areas of the allotment are receiving little or no utilization. Distribution of livestock is key and requires diligent riding from all members. Permittees did a good job with maintenance of range improvements on the allotment.

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

Utilization guidelines for 2007 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 forage areas.

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

The Grazing Instructions for 2007 were discussed and are the same as in 2006.

Permittees discussed the issue about the fence around the Santa Barbara campground and also the gate to Indian Creek as to whether the Camino Real District can help with maintenance.

Some discussion on the upcoming NEPA process planned for this allotment took place. The allotment is scheduled for analysis this year. Permittees are encouraged to be involved throughout the NEPA process.

The Camino Real District again encouraged permittees to cut the hay meadow prior to Canada thistle setting its seed. There has been a visible reduction in the amount of Canada thistle in the last few years.

This District will provide replacement tags this year as needed.

Camino Real Ranger District 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 opportunity exists to participate in the information gathering process prior to the Forest Service proposing any action. Permittees were familiarized with the rule and encouraged to attend public meetings to submit comments regarding their need for motorized travel as a grazing permit holder on federal lands. Comments can also be sent by mail to the Camino Real Ranger District.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2007:

1. Thinning (Cañada Honda)
2. Prescribed burns
3. Trough for Trick Tank in Bear Mountain (will be provided to permittees this year)
4. Cattleguard on road between Hodges and Llano was repaired last season

The Camino Real District will provide up to a quarter mile of fence materials for reconstruction of the fence in Bear Mountain.

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

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 permittees.

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.