

RIO PUEBLO/MIRANDA ALLOTMENT #404
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2007

The annual meeting for the Rio Pueblo Allotment was held on March 23, 2006, at the District Office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Ernesto Gonzales, and Floyd Romero from the Rio Pueblo Grazing Association. Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

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

FS and permittees 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. Some considerations in dealing with drought are authorized numbers, season of use, pasture rotations, and possible early off dates. Permittees volunteered 100 percent reduction in numbers of permitted livestock last year to deal with prevailing drought conditions and to improve range and watershed conditions in their allotment. This year they will graze 17 c/c and be on nonuse for personal convenience for 100 c/c. This is the first year of nonuse for personal convenience.

Table 1- Permitted and Authorized use for Grazing.

1. Permittee	Number and Kind	Authorized Number and Kind
Rio Pueblo Grazing Association	117 cow/calf-155 cow/calf	17 cow/calf
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin L. Cruz	(30-40 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Abran E. Fernandez	(29-39 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Mr. & Mrs. Ernesto A. Gonzales	(25-33 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Dorothy K. Gonzales	(25-34 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Floyd J. Romero	(8-9 cow/calf)	(17 cow/calf)

2. Season of Use

06/01 - 09/30 (122 days)

Table 2-Pasture Rotation

<u>3. Pasture Rotation</u>	<u>Planned</u>		<u>Actual use</u>	<u>utilization %</u>
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time		
McGaffey	06/01 - 07/31	61 days		
Vallecitos	08/01 – 09/30	61 days		
Telephone	rest	0 days		
Amole	rest	0 days		
Middle and Ranchos allot.	rest	0 days		
La Junta	rest	0 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Rio Pueblo 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, ie. 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 2006 grazing season went well overall. Production of forage was good and the entire allotment was allowed to rest. Forage utilization which would have been from wildlife, was estimated in key areas and use was acceptable in all units. This was due to all permittees taking nonuse and grazing no livestock. Range improvement maintenance was not undertaken.

A new cattleguard was installed in 2006 between the Olla Ranchos allotment and the La Cueva unit along FR 442. Permittees will need to attach the fence to the wing posts.

The NM Hwy Dept started a new fence along NM Hwy 518 and are planning on completing both sides of state highway 518 between Pot Creek and the Rock wall by the time permitted cattle would be turned on the allotment.

The permittees brought up a concern about the cattle breaching fences along the private land adjacent to the Miranda Allotment, going through it to the Telephone pasture and down onto State Road 75 in Vadito.

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 use areas within the allotment.

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 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.

Grazing instructions for 2007 are the same as in 2005.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2007:

1. Fence reconstruction between the Middle and La Cueva units.
2. Reconstruction of McGaffey trick tank. Needs new trough and possibly pipeline from storage tank to trough.
3. Reconstruction of spring developments; Tio Maes, Indian Creek, and Apache Spring

The Borrego timber sale may proceed this summer in the Telephone pasture.

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.