

**EAST FERNANDEZ ALLOTMENT #457**

Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2007**

The annual meeting for the East Fernandez Allotment was held on April 20, 2007, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Permittee attending was Larry Mondragon. Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits on the East Fernandez 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. Some considerations in dealing with drought are authorized numbers, season of use, and possible early off dates.

**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	7 cow/calf
Larry E. Mondragon	7 cow/calf, 1 bull	10 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 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 2006 grazing season went well and use was within the guidelines. Distribution of livestock throughout the allotment was good. Maintenance of range improvements was acceptable.

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 monitored in key forage areas. Permittees are responsible for monitoring the allotment, and ensuring adequate distribution.

Grazing Instructions for 2007 are the same as in 2006.

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 submit comments regarding their need for motorized travel as a grazing permit holder on federal lands. Comments can be sent by mail to the Camino Real Ranger District.

Permittee noted that the travel management is going to complicate fuelwood gathering, especially on the north side of the district, as the district seems to develop all the fuelwood areas in the south side only. He believes there are more members of the public depending on the Forest for fuelwood in the north side of the district. He also mentioned that the Forest Service opens roads for fire fighting, and then the roads remain open, especially in the Garcia Park area of the allotment.

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2007:

1. Gathering corral near Valle Escondido. Permittees have a real need for this corral and it may also benefit the permittee on Tienditas.
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.