

April 23, 2007

BLACK LAKES ALLOTMENT #450
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2007

The annual meeting for the Black Lakes Allotment was held on March 30, 2007, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Black Lakes Livestock Association was represented by Cristobal Cisneros Sr., Cristobal Cisneros Jr., Robert Trujillo, Steve Vigil, Mike Trujillo, Pat Vigil, Fidel Garcia, and Luis Garcia. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for the Black Lakes Livestock Association.

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 grazing season. Permittees volunteered a reduction in numbers (54%) for resource protection to deal with anticipated drought and to improve range conditions on the allotment.

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

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized number and kind
Black Lakes Livestock Association	210 cow/calf 11 bulls	96 cow/calf 6 bulls
Taos Group – Cristobal N. Cisneros	7 cow/calf	5 cow/calf
Fidel T. Garcia	3 cow/calf	0 cow/calf
Luis R. Garcia	24 cow/calf	30 cow/calf 2 bulls
Genoveva Martinez	6 cow/calf	0 cow/calf
Black Lakes Group – Richard M. Tafoya	16 cow/calf	14 cow/calf 1 bull
Michael Trujillo	15 cow/calf	1 cow/calf
Edmundo L. Vigil	45 cow/calf	30 cow/calf 2 bulls
South Group – Robert A. Trujillo	62 cow/calf	16 cow/calf 1 bulls
Alfonso F. Vigil	32 cow/calf	0 cow/calf 0 bull

Table 2 - Season of use

2. Season of Use	
06/16-09/30	(107 days)

Table 3 - Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual use	Utilization%
Osha (Black Lakes)	07/01 - 09/30	92 days		
South (south group, Black Lakes group)	06/16 - 09/30	107 days		
West (Taos)	06/16 - 09/30	107 days		

Black lakes group will start off in the South pasture and then move over to the Osha unit. The Taos group will start in the West pasture then open the gates into the Osha unit around mid July. Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Black Lakes allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions.

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 with areas grazed within allowable use limits. Permittees voluntarily took a reduction in numbers (45 percent) to help with range conditions in 2006. Permittees did a good job in keeping livestock distributed throughout the allotment. Maintenance on assigned fences was good last season as well as other improvements.

The Camino Real District and permittees will monitor at key use areas where monitoring points are established. Permittees would like to review key areas on the ground.

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.

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

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.

Permittees expressed a concern that the Olla-Ranchos allotment had been promised to them by previous FS personnel years ago and they expressed interest in being able to use part of this allotment. Areas which may be used need to be looked at on the ground with permittees. Permittees will also have the opportunity to propose adding certain parts of the Olla-Ranchos to their allotment when the Olla Ranchos allotment goes through the Environmental Analysis process next year. Permittees were also concerned about fence maintenance needs between both of these allotments.

Permittees encouraged the Camino Real District to impress upon other adjoining permittees and landowners to do fence maintenance and keep gates closed.

Permittees and FS will look at range readiness together to determine range readiness and on-date.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2007:

1. East-west division fence needs reconstruction (1 mile)
2. South boundary fence is down and/or missing (1/2 mile)
3. New trough and spring box at Trujillo spring.
4. New trough below corner park along the South Boundary trail.

Permittees requested the District clean out cattleguards on FR 153 if possible.

Permittees mentioned that private land boundary fences and uncontrolled ATV use are major concerns.

Permittees replaced a couple of texas gates last year with tubular gates provided by the district.

The Camino Real District will continue to provide replacement tags as needed. Permittees would like to have all members have consecutive numbers in place.

Resource damage observed by permittees being attributed to elk should be reported to the Forest Service and relayed to the NM Game and Fish.

Cristobal Cisneros Sr. announced that his sons Raymond and Martin will be responsible for his cattle operation now.

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.