

LUNA-CHACON ALLOTMENT # 406
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2006

The annual meeting for the Luna Chacon Allotment was held on March 7, 2006, at the District office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Manuel Vigil, Manuel Romero, Leroy Abeyta, Benancio Trujillo, Ross Torres, Jose Hurtado, Joseph Garcia, and John Paul Vigil, from the Luna Chacon Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of each Term Grazing Permit on the Luna-Chacon Allotment.

FS 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 drought are authorized numbers, season of use, pasture rotations, and possible early off dates. Permittees volunteered a 20 percent reduction in number of permitted livestock to deal with prevailing drought conditions. This number reduction will allow for rangeland plant recovery. Numbers may be adjusted up or down depending on near future conditions.

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

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized Number and Kind
Luna Chacon Grazing Assoc.	(14 bulls)	14 bulls
Chacon Group		
John Abeyta	20 cow/calf	16 cow/calf
Leroy and Clarence Abeyta	21 cow/calf	17 cow/calf
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin L. Cruz	32 cow/calf	26 cow/calf
Ernesto E. Gonzales	7 cow/calf	6 cow/calf
John Paul Vigil	5 cow/calf	4 cow/calf
Emilie Vigil & J. Lorenzo Vigil	4 cow/calf	3 cow/calf
Bernadette Romero	20 cow/calf	16 cow/calf
Manuel Romero	11 cow/calf	9 cow/calf
Mr. & Mrs. Benancio Trujillo	26 cow/calf	21 cow/calf
Manuel Vigil	23 cow/calf	18 cow/calf
Luna Group		
Noe A. & Emilia C. Duran	18 cow/calf	16 cow/calf
Robert or Janet Garcia	26 cow/calf	23 cow/calf
Joseph Garcia	15 cow/calf	Nonuse
Mr. & Mrs. Jose A. Hurtado	13 cow/calf	12 cow/calf
Andres Martinez	16 cow/calf	14 cow/calf
Ross & Emily Torres	31 cow/calf	28 cow/calf

Table 2 - Season of Use

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

Table 3 - Pasture estimated time and actual use and utilization.

3. Pasture Rotation Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual Use	Utilization %
<i>Chacon</i>				
Romero Lake	06/01 – 09/30	122 days		
Sardinas	06/10 – 09/30	112 days		
La Presa	06/10 – 09/30	112 days		
<i>Luna</i>				
Lower Luna	Rest			
Upper Luna	Rest			
Bull Canyon	6/01 – 9/30	122 days		

To deal with drought conditions, all cattle on the Chacon will enter in the Romero Lake pasture when range is ready then the herd will split off in three fairly equal portions onto the other two pastures when range is ready in those particular pastures, thereby grazing all three pastures for the remainder of the season. The Luna side will graze in Bull Canyon but may enter the Upper and Lower Luna pastures if drought persists.

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 2005 grazing season went well overall on Luna and Chacon units with use being within allowable limits. This was due in part to good production of forage on the allotment and the voluntary reduction of livestock on the allotment. Maintenance of improvements was adequate throughout the allotment. Livestock were well distributed throughout the allotment all season.

Permittees were asked to furnish the Forest Service with an actual use report showing all costs incurred with management of the allotment for last season.

Utilization guidelines for 2006 are 40% in key forage areas of annual available forage and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key forage areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.56 per head month for cattle.

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

Permittees reported trespass livestock again this last summer by Tomas Martinez and Charlie Gasca on the Romero Lakes pasture. FS did observe some unauthorized use by Charlie Gasca and also observed some permitted cattle also grazing on the wrong pasture. FS will take action against these landowners but needs to have good documentation to do so. Permittees were encouraged to report any additional trespass violations to the FS but also need to make sure to follow rotation plans as agreed to.

FS relayed information in cooperation with the New Mexico Livestock Board on required bull testing for Bovine Trichomoniasis on all bulls entering FS lands.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2006:

1. Cattleguard in mouth of Sardinas canyon.
2. Reconstruct fence in La Presa unit in the Larkspur fence.
3. A cattleguard is needed on the Larkspur Fence (priority) and at the gate on the fence between Sardinas and La Presa units. These cattleguards could be smaller cattleguards to allow ATV traffic.

Fence between Luna-Chacon and Rio Pueblo Allotments between Arellano and Sardinas Canyons needs construction and boundary adjustment. FS will look at on-site with permittees from both Allotments. Permittees must avoid having cattle stray into the Rio Pueblo allotment.

Some discussion on the NEPA process planned for this allotment took place. The Luna/Chacon is scheduled for NEPA within a few years.

FS will provide replacement tags as needed.

Grazing instructions for 2006 are the same as in 2005.

Forest Service would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management 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 of 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, Penasco, New Mexico 87553.