

February 23, 2006

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

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2006

The annual meeting for the Black Lakes Allotment was held on February 10, 2006, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Black Lakes Livestock Association was represented by Francisco Vigil, Cristobal Cisneros, Richard Tafoya, Robert Trujillo, Antonio Vigil, 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 current drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment, and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. Permittees requested a voluntary reduction in numbers (45%) 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	113 cow/calf 8 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	11 cow/calf 1 bull
Michael Trujillo	15 cow/calf	1 cow/calf
Edmundo L. Vigil	45 cow/calf	28 cow/calf 2 bulls
South Group – Robert A. Trujillo	62 cow/calf	18 cow/calf 2 bulls
Alfonso F. Vigil	32 cow/calf	20 cow/calf 1 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.

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 with areas grazed within allowable use limits. Permittees voluntarily took a reduction in numbers (56 percent) to help with range conditions in 2005. 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.

Permittees will be initiating a monitoring program on their allotment this year. They will be asking FS personnel to be involved. This is highly encouraged by the Forest Service. FS and permittees will look at key use areas where these monitoring points may be established. Permittees would like to review key areas on the ground.

The permittees were concerned with too much trampling by ATV's around Corner Park and have noticed erosion caused by ATV's throughout the allotment. Permittees would like to know who has special use permits on their allotment for off road vehicle tours and where.

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% 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 \$1.56 per head month for cattle.

Forest Service reviewed the Terms and Conditions of the Term Grazing Permit as well as the Allotment Management Plan with the permittees.

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

Again permittees discussed an opportunity to realign the boundary fence around Quintana Pass. This would result in less maintenance impacts for the permittees. This possibility needs to be looked at on the ground.

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 their allotment goes through the Environmental Analysis process. Permittees were also concerned about fence maintenance needs between both of these allotments.

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2006:

1. East-west division fence needs reconstruction (1 mile)
2. South boundary fence is down and/or missing (1/2 mile)
3. Trough in Corner Park.

Permittees requested the FS clean out cattleguards on FR76 if possible.

Private land boundary fences and uncontrolled ATV use are major concerns for the permittees. FS mentioned that private landowners are responsible for maintenance of boundary fences.

Permittees discussed the possibility of moving the cattleguard on FR76 adjacent to Hwy 434 to avoid cattle getting on to the highway because of another gate being left open. FS will determine if this can be done.

FS will continue to provide replacement tags as needed.

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

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.

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, Peñasco, New Mexico 87553.