

RIO CHIQUITO ALLOTMENT #402
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2004

The annual meeting for the Rio Chiquito Allotment was held on March 29, 2004, at the District Office in Penasco, New Mexico. Attending were, Archie Velarde, Gene Dominguez, Presiliano Sandoval, and Jerry Rodriguez from the Rio Chiquito Grazing Association. 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 Rio Chiquito Grazing Association.

In considering authorized numbers, season of use and pasture rotations; current drought conditions and ways which to cope with them were discussed. FS reviewed the action plan for the Carson NF and shared information predicting severity of drought. Further discussion included considering a reduction of numbers, later on dates, accelerated rotations, and possible early off dates. Permittees volunteered a **40 percent reduction** in number of permitted livestock to deal with prevailing drought conditions. This number reduction is the best estimate, using current and expected range conditions, which will allow authorized livestock to graze the entire season provided range readiness is achieved and utilization standards are adhered to. This reduction is also needed to allow for rangeland plant recovery. Grazing nine head on the Canada Ancha of the Trampas allotment was agreed to with the president of the Trampas allotment. Stocking the allotment with higher numbers will be considered if conditions result in high forage production.

1. Permittee	Permit Number and Kind	Authorized Number and Kind
Rio Chiquito Grazing Association	180 cow/calf, 9 bulls	115 cow/calf, 7 bulls
Gene Dominguez	(6 cow/calf)	(6 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Joe and Elizabeth Romero	(108 cow/calf)	(96 cow/calf, 5 bulls)
Jerry J. Rodriguez	(4 cow/calf)	(4 cow/calf)
Joyce Sandoval	(5 cow/calf)	(5 cow/calf)
Presiliano Sandoval	(4 cow/calf)	(4 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Archie R. Velarde	(53 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)

2. Season of Use	
05/16 - 9/30	(139 days)

Table 1 - Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation	Planned		Actual use	utilization %
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time		
Jacinto Canyon	05/16 - 05/22	7 days		
Cejita Mesa	05/23 - 06/08	17 days		
Lower Entranas	06/09 - 06/20	12 days		
Cebadilla	06/21 - 07/31	40 days		
Rio Chiquito	08/01 - 09/30	61 days		
Vallecitos (Dominguez)	05/16 - 09/30	139 days		
Canada Ancha (Pres, Joyce)	05/16 - 09/30	139 days		

4. Maintenance of Improvements

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittees. 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 Discussed

The 2003 grazing year was tough due to prolonged drought conditions. Stocking the allotment with 40 percent reduction in number of permitted livestock allowed the permittees to graze all season long within the utilization standard in key areas as monitored by Forest Service employees. Pasture rotations went well with cattle being well distributed after cattle went on. Maintenance of range improvements was good.

The possibility of using a protein product, such as Crystalyx, to help achieve better distribution across areas of the allotment that have ample feed but are not used by livestock was discussed. Brochures on the product were distributed to the permittees and they were encouraged to look at possibly utilizing it as a tool in their management.

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.

Grazing Instructions for 2004 were discussed and are the same as in 2003.

Utilization standards for 2004 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Use guidelines can be adjusted to 60% use on crested wheat stands west of the highway. Forage utilization will be measured in key forage areas.

Permittees mentioned some concern about elk use in key use areas. Any resource damage attributed to elk observed by permittees should be documented and brought to the attention of the NM Game and Fish.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.43 per head month for cattle.

Permittees were encouraged to monitor their allotment and provide documentation copies to the FS.

The issue of NM highway right of way fence maintenance responsibility was discussed. FS will discuss maintenance needs with the highway department to do prior to livestock entering the forest this year.

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2003:

1. Stock tanks in Rio Chiquito pasture
2. ¼ mile of fence is needed east of highway 76 on the south end of the Cebadilla pasture.
3. Cejita Mesa Trick Tank #1 is leaking from rust holes and needs storage tank replaced.
4. Water development and drift fence in Osha Cienega
5. Troughs to replace old ones across the allotment.
6. Storage tank for Vallecitos.
7. Burning and thinning projects in Entranas.
8. Corral

FS has tin on hand for permittees to use in maintaining some of the trick tanks west of the highway including #'s 4,7,3,2, & 1.

Tank #8 needs some work so that the storage tanks will fill. FS and permittees will look at the situation.

About ¼ mile of fence is needed along the highway right-of-way to keep cattle in the Vallecitos unit.

FS will provide replacement tags as needed.

Presciliano would like to graze in Canada Abeyta as well as Canada Ancha. This needs to be discussed with the Trampas permittees.

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 or 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.