

**KNOB ALLOTMENT #412**  
Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2004**

The annual meeting for the Knob Allotment was held on April 14, 2004, at the District Office in Penasco, New Mexico. Paul Martinez attended. Melvin Herrera represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for Paul Martinez.

The following items were discussed.

**Table 1 - Permittee, permitted kind and number.**

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>
Paul Martinez	40 cow/calf

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/27 - 09/20	(86 days)

**Table 2 - 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>
Indian Lake	06/27 – 07/13	17 days		
Quemazon	07/14 – 08/6	24 days		
Angostura	08/07 – 08/29	23 days		
Indian Lake	08/30 – 09/10	12 days		
AguaPiedra gathering	09/11 – 09/20	10 days		

**4. Maintenance of Improvements**

Improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittee going on to the allotment.

## 5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2003 grazing season went well and use was within the acceptable limits even though drought persisted early on in the season. Forage production and vigor of plants was hampered. The permittee grazed 42 head of livestock. The permittee did a good job of keeping cows out of the campground and off the highway again, and distribution overall was good. Maintenance of range improvements was good.

FS encouraged the permittee to monitor his own allotment.

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

Forest Service discussed anticipated drought conditions for this grazing season again that may affect the production of forage on the entire allotment and the Carson National Forest. FS reviewed the action plan for the Carson NF and shared other information predicting the severity of drought. Discussion included considering later on dates, accelerated rotations, reduction in numbers, and possible early off dates if needed to deal with possible worsening conditions and to comply with utilization standards.

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

**Utilization standards for 2004 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and stubble height of 4 inches in riparian zones.** Forage utilization will be measured in key use areas.

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 was shared with the permittee and he was encouraged to look at possibly utilizing it as a tool in his management.

FS informed the permittee of concern with ATV use in Agua Piedra and the plan to ban all ATV use in the campground and closing the trail up Agua Piedra canyon to ATV use. The permittee brought up his concern that he needs to use the ATV to work and check his livestock as he is handicapped and cannot ride a horse. FS will work something out to allow him to continue his operation utilizing an ATV.

The grazing instructions for 2004 are the same as in 2003.

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2004:

1. Opening stock trails.
2. Prescribed burns.
3. Thinning areas.

The permittee may request tags as needed.

**Discussion on the NEPA process conducted on the allotment took place. The Allotment Management Plan was discussed with the permittee.** A new Term Grazing Permit has been issued to the permittee for a period of ten years.

FS asked the permittee to report sightings of trespass cattle, vandalism on range improvements, dumping, or other violations to Range personnel for incident reporting and action.

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.