

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

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2004**

The annual meeting for the Black Lakes Allotment was held on March 4, 2004, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Black Lakes Livestock Association was represented by Frank Vigil, Cristobal Cisneros, 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.

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 58 percent reduction** in number of permitted livestock to deal with prevailing drought conditions. This number reduction, using current and expected range conditions, will allow authorized livestock to graze the entire season provided range readiness is achieved and utilization standards are adhered to. Stocking the allotment with higher numbers will be considered if conditions result in high forage production.

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

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized number and kind</b>
<b>Black Lakes Livestock Association</b>	<b>210 cow/calf, 11 bulls</b>	<b>85 c/c, 7 bulls</b>
Black Lakes Livestock Association	(11 bulls)	7 bulls
<b>Taos Group</b>		
Cristobal N. Cisneros	(7 cow/calf)	8 c/c
Fidel T. Garcia	(3 cow/calf)	0 c/c
Luis R. Garcia	(24 cow/calf)	30 c/c 2 bulls
Genoveva & Sierrita Martinez	(6 cow/calf)	0 c/c
<b>Black Lakes Group</b>		
Richard M. Tafoya	(16 cow/calf)	9 c/c 1 bull
Michael Trujillo	(15 cow/calf)	0 c/c
Edmundo L. Vigil	(45 cow/calf)	18 c/c 1 bull
<b>South Group</b>		
Carolina Trujillo	(62 cow/calf)	10 c/c 1 bull
Alfonso F. Vigil	(32 cow/calf)	10 c/c 1 bull

**Table 2 - Season of use**

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

**Table 3 - 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>
Osha (Black Lakes)	07/01 - 09/30	92 days		
South (Trujillo, Vigil, Black Lakes)	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.

#### **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 2003 grazing season went well with areas grazed within allowable use limits even in drought conditions. Permittees voluntarily took a reduction in numbers to help with the situation in 2003. 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 inquired about having Ursula Rosauer, with the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, providing her services in monitoring their own allotment. Ursula has stated that she is willing to help permittees in initiating their own monitoring program. FS has agreed to help and provide basic tools needed in initiating a monitoring program. FS discussed key use areas where these monitoring points could be established.

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 interested in possibly utilizing this product on their allotment.

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 standards for 2004 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 \$1.43 per head month for cattle.

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 2004:

1. East-west division fence needs reconstruction (1 mile)
2. South boundary fence is down and/or missing (1/2 mile)
3. Development of a spring.

Permittees requested the FS strengthen old road closures with the dozer if the opportunity presented itself.

Private land boundary fences and uncontrolled ATV use are major concerns for the permittees. FS along with permittees will make an effort to meet with the Angel Fire association to discuss ATV traffic and repairs on the fence on the north side of Osha unit.

FS discussed a wildland urban interface (WUI) project that is ongoing on the Osha unit with permittees. Work will continue this summer and may involve work such as thinning, thereby creating a defensible space for the community of Angel Fire.

FS will continue to provide replacement tags as needed.

Resource damage observed by permittees being attributed by elk should be 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 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.