

**ANGOSTURA ALLOTMENT #405  
Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2004**

The annual meeting for the Angostura Allotment was held on March 16, 2004, at the District Office in Penasco, New Mexico. Elias Hurtado represented the Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association. Melvin Herrera represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits for the Angostura 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. Forest Service recommended a 10 percent reduction to deal with prevailing drought conditions. Upon further discussion it was agreed to allow full numbers to graze on the allotment provided conditions did not deteriorate and that grazing utilization standards were adhered to. Permittees agreed to remove livestock off the allotment if range conditions decline and the grazing standards are met prior to the permitted off date. Current snow depth and water content on the allotment reveals a positive outlook.

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

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized number and kind</b>
Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association	4 bulls	4 bulls
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Hurtado	69 cow/calf	69 cow/calf
Estevan R. Lopez	10 cow/calf	10 cow/calf
Mrs. Robert P. Vigil	6 cow/calf	6 cow/calf

**Table 2- Season of use**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)
06/16 - 9/05	(81 days - Mrs. Robert Vigil)

**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>
Lower Alamitos	06/01 - 06/07	7 days		
Dropout	06/07 - 07/10	34 days		
Upper Alamitos	07/11 - 08/10	30 days		
Lower Alamitos	08/11 - 08/31	21 days		
Agua Sarca	09/01 - 09/30	30 days		

**4. Maintenance of Improvements**

The entire cost of 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 permittees going on to the allotment.

**5. Other Items of Discussion**

The 2003 grazing season went well on the Angostura allotment even though it was a tough year again due to persistent drought conditions. Permittees contributed to a good season by volunteering a 10 percent reduction in numbers. Production on the allotment was better than other areas of the district. Utilization levels were within allowable limits. Permittees did a good job in distributing livestock. Maintenance on assigned fences was good last year but springs assigned still need to be maintained.

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 and permittees were encouraged to look at possibly utilizing it as a tool in their management. The permittees were very interested in utilizing this product.

Ursula Rosauer with the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service assisted the permittee in the monitoring of their allotment. FS assisted in placing these monitoring points on mapped key areas on the allotment with permittees.

Permittees were concerned with recreational horses grazing on the Lower Alamitos pasture for over two weeks in the summer between mid June and early July.

Permittees from the Santa Fe National Forest have worked on constructing drift fence to prevent cattle drifting onto the allotment. This work should be accomplished this grazing season.

Grazing instructions for 2004 are the same as in 2003.

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.

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

Permittees were reminded to run cattle as one herd and not get scattered into several different units.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2004:

1. Rebuild corral at Alamitos.
2. Cattleguard and fence to prevent cattle from going onto highway in Picacho road.

FS discussed the need to continue maintenance work with the spring developments on the allotment.

FS will provide replacement tags as needed.

Some discussion on the schedule for completing the NEPA process for this allotment took place.

FS reminded permittees that they are responsible for calling to arrange livestock counts before on-date.

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, Penasco, New Mexico 87553.