

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/17/2002)

Allotment Name: Centerfire

Permittees: FKP LLC and Glenna Reynolds

Permit Number: 06-1131 and 06-1048

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 185 Cattle Cow/calf 3/1 – 2/28 (**FKP**)
53 Cattle Cow/calf 3/1-2/28 (**Reynolds**)

2003 Annual Validation:

FKP	
81 cattle cow/calf	3/1 – 2/28
remainder	suspended
Reynolds	
30 cattle cow/calf	3/1 – 2/28
remainder	suspended

Grazing System: The current grazing system for the allotment is a seven pasture deferred rotation system. Season of use is yearlong.

Pasture Rotation: 2002

Dillon	1/1/03-2/28/03	81 cow/calf (FKP)	Allowable use 40%
Bishop	1/1/03-2/15/03	30 cow/calf (Reynolds)	Allowable use 40%
Section	2/16/03-4/30/03	30 cow/calf (Reynolds)	Allowable use 40%
Campbell	3/1/03-4/30/03	81 cow/calf (FKP)	Allowable use 40%
Black Gap	5/1/03-7/31/03	111 cow/calf (All cattle)	Allowable use 30%
Freeman	8/1/03-10/31/03	111 cow/calf (All cattle)	Allowable use 30%
S.A.	11/1/03-2/28/04	111 cow/calf (All cattle)	Allowable use 40%

Pin-point 40 **May enter this pasture only to move livestock to and from Freeman and Dillon pastures. No overnight stays will be allowed.**

Grazing Restriction: Grazing restrictions that were applied during 2001 apply to your allotment for the 2003-grazing season. A copy of the map of restricted areas has been included. The restriction is as follows:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed within the identified areas which are displayed on the allotment map from February 1 through August 31 and no concentration of livestock, i.e. corral use, traps, or large gathering of livestock is allowed.

No new range developments are proposed in the identified restricted areas. Routine maintenance of range developments is permitted.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

Key forage utilization monitoring areas are the locations identified in 2001. Forage utilization in each key forage area is **30% growing season** and **40% dormant season**.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, those key areas will be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. These areas are the existing cluster transects sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period to determine actual grazing use. I urge you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook. Monitoring methods to be used will be the grazed plant method, ocular estimates, clipping/weighing or Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

If any one key areas in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% (**heavy use**) utilization on the uplands or 25% of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings are heavily hedged, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Key riparian areas in the following pastures include:

(see map of key areas provided at meeting 12/13/02)

1. Dillon Pasture - A portion of Centerfire Creek in the SE corner of section 13 and the SE corner of section 7. An area around the Cienega Spring area in the SW corner of section 8. RASES transects 03-043, 03-044, 03-062, and 03-063.
2. Freeman Pasture - A portion of Cottonwood Canyon located in the SW corner of section 8. RASES transects 03-038, and 03-039.
3. SA Pasture - All of SA Creek located on National Forest Lands. RASES transect 03-029.
4. Bishop Canyon Pasture - Bishop Canyon between Bishop Spring and Bishop Spring Storage Tank.
5. Centerfire Creek located at the pinpoint 40 below Centerfire Bog including RASES transect 03-061.

Key upland locations, identified for monitoring utilization are the following transect locations:

1. Bishop Canyon Pasture key upland areas are transects locations C1A, P1A, and P2A.
2. Section Pasture, P4. Campbell Pasture key upland areas are transect location C2.
3. Black Gap Pasture key upland areas are transect locations P1, P5, P6, and P7, and C1.
4. Freeman Pasture key upland areas are transect locations C3, C5, and P8.
5. SA Pasture key upland areas are transect location P2.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

Freeman Mtn.	*C-3	<u>11/25/02</u>	50% Use	S.A.	P-3	<u>12/9/02</u>	26% Use
	*C-5		60% Use		*R03-029		50% Use
	P-8		20% Use				
Black Gap Past.		<u>6/25/02</u>				<u>3/28/02</u>	
	P-1		0% Use	Section P-4			20% Use
	*P-5		42% Use				
	P-6		10% Use				
	*P-7		70% Use				
Bishop	C-1		30% Use				
		<u>5/29/02</u>					
	C1-A		40% Use				

*Monitoring results at 5 of 12 key areas monitored during the 2002 grazing season exceeded allowable use rates. It is your responsibility to observe utilization and comply with allowable use guidelines. During the 2003 grazing season, please acknowledge these areas and distribute livestock to comply with allowable use guidelines.

Forage Growth and Water Availability: If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2003, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

In addition specific maintenance discussed included:

1. Lonnie Tank Fence. ½ mile fence to be repaired
2. Assess clean out needs at Lonnie and Dillon tanks.
3. Permittees will maintain Karruth pipeline to functional status.

In addition, new range developments discussed included:

1. Bathtub spring needs pipeline trenched to new trough location, and fence around spring. **(Please call the District prior to the implementation of this work for appropriate materials and cultural resource survey.)**
2. The fence dividing Campbell flat and the Section pasture needs reconstruction. **(Please call the District prior to the implementation of this work.)**

Actual Use:

Actual use was calculated for the 2002-grazing season. The actual use calculated for FKP was 1275 AM's and 422 AM's for Reynolds, for a total of 1697 AM's. For your information the ten year average Actual Use for this allotment has been calculated to be 1971 AM's.

Other Information:

I appreciate your valued input for the allotment planning process during our meeting on 12/13/02. Your continued involvement in this process will be appreciated and encouraged.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call John Pierson or Collin Ewing at (505) 773-4678.

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson

1/27/03

JANICE STEVENSON
District Ranger

Date