

2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
Quemado Ranger District
(11/15/02)

Allotment: Mangitas

Permittees: Concepcion Orona & Eva Orona;

Permit Nos.: 061197 & 061198

Ranch Manager: for Eva Orona - Mike Orona

for Concepcion Orona Jason and Sandra Wenz

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Concepcion Orona	115 Cattle;cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31
Eva Orona	115 Cattle; cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31

2003 Validation:

Concepcion Orona	115 Cattle; cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31
Eva Orona	90 Cattle; cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31

Grazing System: 5-pasture rest rotation system –Jones, Black Peak, Mangitas, Johnson, and Orona.

Pasture Rotation for 2003:

Black Peak	6/01 - 8/15	205 Cattle	40% Allowable Use
Mangitas	COMPLETE REST		
Johnson	8/15 - 10/31	205 Cattle	40% Allowable Use
Orona	COMPLETE REST		
Jones	5/01 - 6/01	205 Cattle	40% Allowable Use

If allowable use is not met, two more weeks will be allowed in Jones Pasture.

Grazing Restrictions:

The following restriction applies to a small area located on the south end of the Mangitas Pasture. The grazing restriction for this area is as follows:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31 and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. Stock tank cleaning must be approved in advance prior to any activities.

The purpose of this restriction is to provide measures to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use - Forest Standards and Guidelines:

The 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the allowable utilization by grazing animals.

Standard - Forage utilization by grazing animals will be maintained at a level which will promote satisfactory range/watershed condition/trend and assures recovery and continued existence of threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species of plants and animals.

Guideline - Key forage utilization monitoring areas are identified on the attached map. Forage utilization guidelines in each key forage area is 40% on the grasses.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

Key forage utilization monitoring will continue on key areas identified on the attached map. Forest Service personnel will visit the key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percentage of grazing utilization will be determined at that time. Participation by the permittee is always welcome and appreciated. Utilization measurements will be determined by 1.) ocular estimate, 2.) paired plot or 3.) grazed plant methods.

If additional key area sites are needed, the Forest Service will select those sites with permittee input. Definitions from Forest Service handbooks will be utilized in selecting key forage monitoring areas.

Utilization checks may also be conducted mid-way through a scheduled pasture-grazing period to determine actual utilization by livestock/wildlife.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another areas of the grazed pasture where actual grazing use is less than the allowable 40% utilization. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at the 40% allowable utilization, livestock will be moved early into the next scheduled pasture identified on this annual operating plan. This requirement is necessary to prevent over utilization on forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

The following key areas were read during the 2002 grazing season

U-4	Mangitas Pasture	54% use	7/06/02
U-4	Mangitas Pasture	52% use	9/03/02
U-8	Mangitas Pasture	25% use	7/06/02
U-8	Mangitas Pasture	0% use	9/03/02
P-2	Mangitas Pasture	4% use	7/06/02
C-2	Mangitas Pasture	36% use	7/06/02
C-2	Mangitas Pasture	28% use	9/03/02
P-3	Mangitas Pasture	12% use	7/06/02
	Mangitas Pasture	14% use	7/06/02
P-5	Johnson Pasture	20% use	12/06/02
C-3	Johnson Pasture	21% use	12/06/02

C-4	Johnson Pasture	10% use	12/06/02
U-7	Johnson Pasture	14% use	12/06/02
U-11	Johnson Pasture	5% use	12/06/02

Utilization monitoring results on paced transect U-4 located just north of the road to Black Peak, on Mangitas Flat exceeded the allowable use. In the future, when livestock are on Mangitas Flat, you are responsible to comply with the allowable use guidelines. This pasture will be rested this grazing season.

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 grazing permit provides this option.

Range Improvements:

All assigned range improvements identified in the term grazing permit will be maintained to a functional status as per part 2, paragraph 8(c) of your term grazing permit.

During your meeting, John discussed with you the need to reassign Norm Mullen’s improvement maintenance responsibilities. You reviewed these improvements and split the improvements previously assigned to Norm Mullen. These improvements have been identified on your respective improvement responsibility lists within your term grazing permit. You agreed to maintain these improvements together this grazing season (see attached list of improvements), to bring these improvements up to standard. Next year you will maintain those improvements that you agreed upon during your meeting.

Range Developments:

Maintenance on the following improvements was discussed.

- 1.) Rock headers have silted in on Mangitas Creek. Gullies may need stabilization in the form of gully plugs, erosion dams, etc. (T.2S.; R.19W.;Sec. 31.) This will be reviewed this summer to determine the need and feasibility for this site.

In addition, one new improvement was discussed as follows.

The proposed Antelope Tank at the northwest corner of the Orona Pasture needs excavation. During certain years this tank would provide water and draw livestock to forage in the upper, unused portion of the Orona Pasture. (T.3S.; R.20W.; Sec.2; NW.).

Actual Use:

During 2002 the actual use on the Mangitas Allotment was 1002 A.M.’s. The ten year average use is 999 A.M.’s.

Other Information:

You inquired about the 146 head of livestock previously permitted to Norm Mullen, to be transferred to your respective grazing permits. John informed you that he was not comfortable in doing so at this time because the allotment may or may not support the total current permitted numbers. John suggested, and I concur, that 25% of the 146 head (48 head) be split in half to each permittee. This would equate to 24 head temporary increase for each permittee. The temporary increase will not be implemented prior to all assigned improvements being brought up to satisfactory condition including responsibilities from Mullen's permit. When improvements are satisfactory on the previous waived permit each permittee may apply for a temporary increase up to 24 head.

If allowable use rates are complied with and additional forage is available we may look at future temporary increases involving Norm Mullen's waived livestock numbers.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

3/13/03

cc: so
Mike Orona
Jason & Sandra Wenz

enclosures:
Key area and Grazing Restriction map
Improvement Responsibility List