

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(2/18/03)

Allotment Name: Puerto Viejo

Permittee: Robert Buchanan

Permit Number: 06-613

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 128 cow/calf 5/1 – 9/30

2003 Annual Validation: 60 cow/calf 5/1 – 9/30/02

Grazing System: This is a two-pasture Seasonal Rest Rotation system.

Pasture Rotation: 2003

Padilla	5/1 - 9/30	All cattle	All. Use - 40%
Chavez		Rest Entire Season	

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restriction will apply as it did in 2002 in a small area within the Padilla Canyon Pasture. Please refer to the attached map.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31, 2003 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 mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

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 have been 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. 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/pace transect sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period to determine actual grazing use. I encourage 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 are ocular estimates, grazed plant method, clip/weigh and Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

No utilization monitoring was done in the Puerto Viejo Allotment during the summer or fall of 2002. The Chavez Pasture monitoring will be done during the spring of 2003 while the grass is dormant and we can still obtain accurate information.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 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 developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status. In addition to maintenance of range improvements you discussed other improvements that you would like to have in the future:

1. Need metal gates on Chavez Canyon road and between Padilla and Chavez pastures. The FS has metal gates located at Jewett workcenter. Contact John or Joe.
2. Permittee would like to see trees thinned around Padilla Spring. It would reduce transpiration. The District is in the process of identifying areas needed for pinon/juniper thinning. Please contact John to review this need at Padilla springs.
3. Protein and salt blocks will be placed in the upper portion of the Chavez pasture, along the old logging road and west of Ray Bell Tank, to help distribute livestock. Forest service personnel and permittee have developed a salt/protein plan. The map on the agreed locations is included.
4. Permittee would like to have Forest Service provide Numex pipe in order to distribute water from Killion Tank. F.S. needs to review this project on the ground.

Actual Use:

Actual use for the 2002 grazing season was calculated to be 90 AM's. The 10-year average was calculated to be 263 AM's.

Other Information:

1. Permittee would like to have a Memorandum of Understanding written between the Forest Service and the permittee that would provide for grazing 60 head, seasonally, on the allotment thru 2005.
2. Permittee is interested in drilling a well on the private land immediately northwest of Hutcherson Tank (T. 3 S.; R. 14 W.; Sec.13, NE, SE.). The Forest Service will permit the permittee to improve FR's 4014 K and 4014 M in order to move a drill rig to the private land.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these annual operating instructions please do not hesitate to call John Pierson at 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so